

ANTILLEN REVIEW

Vol. 3 - No. 4

June / July 1983

NAfl. 6.00 / US\$ 3.50

JUL 19 1983

Croesified

**The EEC's
dynamic presence**

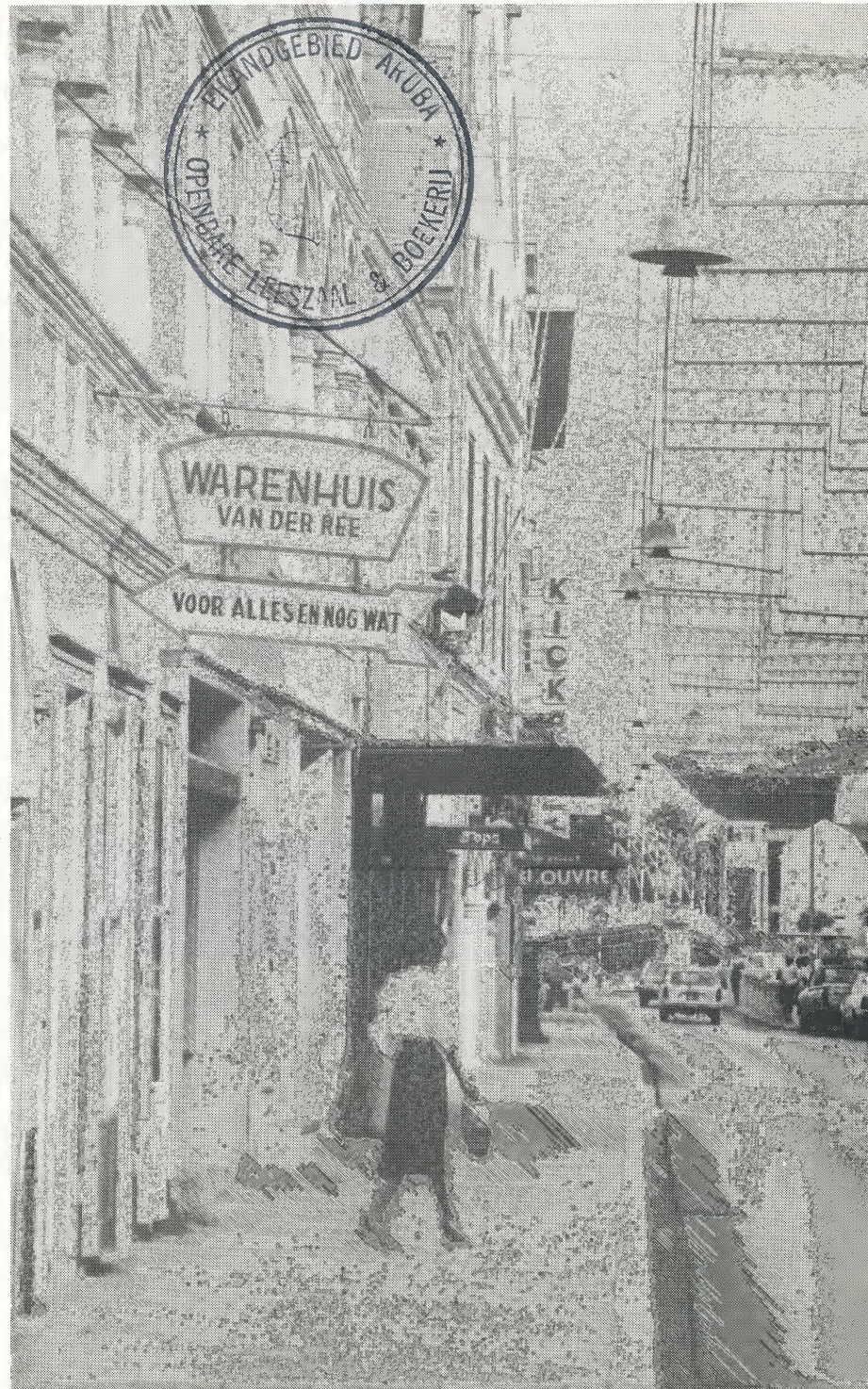
**US-Press and the
N.A. offshore
business**

**Democracy long
way to go**

**Old cities should
never die**

Economic Survey

**Progressive
socialist to lead
Bonaire**



Where have all the tourists gone?

Time to face reality

**Big enough to serve you worldwide.
Small enough to do it
personally and
quickly.**



BARCLAYS BANK

- Only bank with branches on all 6 islands
- More Caribbean branches than any other bank
- 5000 offices in 84 countries worldwide
- Experts in letters of credit, collections and transfers
- Offshore and onshore services
- Quick, friendly service...no waiting on long lines



**BARCLAYS BANK
of the Netherlands Antilles N.V.**

**Landhuis Gaito, Curaçao.
Telephone 76311 - 76403 - 76750**

Offices in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Statia and St.Maarten



FROM THE EDITOR

In times of crises inspirational leadership can call forth in a people the fortitude needed to get back on the right track. Whether one agrees with the policies of Mr. Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher or not, both have undeniably strengthened the backbone of their societies. And both countries are back on track! Obviously what the Americans call 'guts' is highly contagious.

Just as undeniable — or even more so — is the fact that the Antilles have fallen upon bad times. Partly due to an epidemic lack of planning and partly because of developments abroad the economy is in a downward slide, threatening an unparalleled increase in unemployment and long forgotten hardship for many. Looking back in anger, blaming government, trade-unions or employers is as senseless as the ongoing rear-guard actions waged by some trying to prove their innocence. Cowardice has never served anyone least of all the bearers of that detestable trait of character. The country is in trouble and to a large extent we have ourselves to blame.

But that statement is a far cry from the sickly negativism exhibited by several newspapers, which seem to enjoy to the hilt announcing disaster. A kind of journalism — if it still deserves that title — that may in the end be more to blame for worsening of the situation than anything else. Certainly if social unrest breaks out. The hour calls for realism,

which implies at the one hand in depth analyses of why and where the Antilles failed themselves and on the other taking as an example those undertakings in the country which are still highly successful. During its two and a half year existence AR has repeatedly drawn attention to such positive developments. It has also noted that pride in success had devaluated dangerously in Antillean society.

Inspiring leadership, so urgently needed, might start off exactly there: rekindle faith in the ability of the Antillean community to make things work. (Which is, by the way, not the same as asserting that Antilleans only because of their being Antillean should be appointed in all leading positions!). An inspiration, which need not be expected to come from politicians exclusively. The church, press, labour-unions and employers' organizations are the bodies that ought to rise quickly to the call of the times.

A call which places the accent on responsibility rather than rights, on input rather than reward and pride in achievement rather than resenting the success of others. Most important of all in the face of the developing crisis all distrust between the social partners should be replaced by a willingness to co-operate for the common good. The recent announcement of an attempt to join hands between those partners, is the best news the country has heard for a long time.

CONTENTS

NATIONAL		FINANCE		PRESS	
Time to face reality	5	Economic Survey	21	Discussing Democracy	35
ARUBA		SPECIAL FEATURE		TOURISM	
Croesified	9	E.E.C.'s assistance	24	US Airline Deregulation	37
BONAIRE		ECONOMY		PEOPLE/BUSINESS	38
Progressive socialist	11	US-Press and the Antillean offshore business	27	CULTURE	
CURAÇAO		Profile of Antillean Multi-National	29	Old cities should never die	39
Farewell to Broadhurst	15	LAW		REGION	
How Curaçao voted	17	Democracy long way to go	33	Time for straight talk	43
WINDWARDS				BIBLIOGRAPHY	46
Statia's priorities	19				



ABN Bank

the largest international bank of holland
at curacao n.a.

As a businessman, your choice of a bank is extremely important. The reputation and skill of your bankers can contribute substantially to the success of your enterprise. When you choose Algemene Bank Nederland N.V. (ABN Bank), you are selecting a major financial institution with outstanding credentials.

for banking service with a personal touch

ABN Bank - THE DUTCH BANKER

wherever you are

TIME TO FACE REALITY

The country is in trouble. During the past two months Curaçao's economic problems have been taking on worrisome proportions. Due to the fall of the Venezuelan bolivar tourism reached an all time low and consequently much business came to a virtual halt.

The staggering deficits at the Drydock, Shell and national carrier ALM pose a financial problem beyond the means of the government implying the imminent dismissal of a large number of workers and employees. In seemingly prospering Aruba the effects of the Venezuelan debacle were nonetheless visible and worse yet: acts of blatant violence began to dominate the political scene. The implications of the economic recession for the smaller and much more dependent islands are obvious.

On top of all that the islands are faced with the difficult, emotionally laden and costly task of untying the knot between Aruba and the other five now that agreement has been reached on status aparte for the former.

If ever the country was in need of strong and decisive leadership it is now. But the outcome of the recent insular elections does not seem to make things easier. Reshuffling of governments both on the insular and national level and political infighting in several parties faced with unexpected results, are presently consuming time and energy which should be devoted to tackling the nation's problems.

Consolidation

In essence the results of the April elections on Curaçao yield a positive picture. The leading social democratic party MAN, although losing 17.1%, managed to stay on top, thus confirming its position as a major party. The christian democratic party, PNP, climbed from a third position in last years national elections to a very close second increasing with no less than 39.4%! The Democratic Party fell back to third position drawing only 14.2% of the electorate to its banner.

Most interesting is the fact that all smaller parties but one were wiped out. A development which should further strengthen the democratic process as the roles of government and opposition have a better chance of being acted out in a constructive manner. The



Maria Liberia Peters

tendency towards a three party system may hopefully discourage the birth of new parties in the future. This would certainly enable the three major parties to build up their own cadres, without the fear of losing people all the time to new and usually fruitless attempts at party formation. It

would, moreover, force those interested in a political career to climb the ladder of a party organization learning the profession if not the game of politics.

MAN

Understandably many Manistas were disappointed by the results showing a loss of almost 5000 votes. Even if allowing for the fact that governing parties usually see a decline of their support, this relatively large number demands an analysis of the causes for this decline. In particular as most of the leading personalities in the MAN expected their party to strengthen its position.

Having lost heavily to the PNP (see Curaçao) it may be assumed that the party's wavering position towards the issue of education, is one of the main reasons. Leaning strongly towards the Teacher's Union SITEK, which has been in an almost continuous fight with



BOUWMAATSCHAPPIJ CURAÇAO N.V.

Landhuis Pos Cabai, Curaçao
P.O. Box 3201 - Tel. 76077 - 76078

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

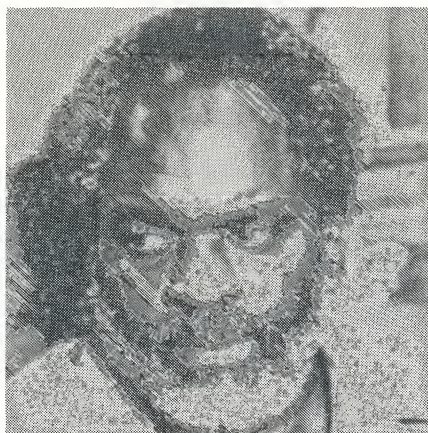
Your address for: OFFICE-BUILDINGS,
WAREHOUSES,
SHOPS, HOUSES,
HOTELS,
RENOVATIONS etc. etc.

If you think of building, ask BMC for a quotation.

the RC Educational Board, many came under the impression that the MAN was set on a course of dismantling the RC school organization. As by far the majority of the schools are run by the RC Educational Board and over 80% of the population is roman catholic, this image most certainly did not work in the MAN's favour.

A possible second cause concerns the leading personalities. MAN's charismatic leader Don Martina may have delivered on his promise of clean government, he certainly did not impress people as very decisive. Within his own party, moreover, the radical elements seemed to be gaining in influence. Many observers noted that Mr. Martina evaded the issue thereby shedding doubt in some quarters about his own convictions.

The warm and strong personality of Mrs. Maria Liberia-Peters, PNP's leader, no doubt offered the electorate an



Martina

attractive alternative.

It should in all fairness be observed that Mr. Martina has been leading the country during a time of increasing economic and political stress (e.g. the Aruba question). The people's disappointment with his party's performance should therefore be rated in relative terms.

Abstaining

The percentage of non-voters, growing with every election, is bad news indeed. A clear warning that something is amiss. This time more than one-third of the electorate stayed away from the polls. An increase of 4% over the 1982 elections! The most heard explanation is that the people are becoming tired of the never ending bickering between politicians. Many apparently are of the opinion that it makes little difference which party or combination of parties runs the government. The obvious conclusion: the parties lack face.

Not surprisingly infighting broke out in all three major political parties after the results became known. The interesting question is whether this will lead to sharper defined ideological profiles.

The Democratic Party, which suffered its greatest loss ever, has decided not to join any coalition but stay in the opposition for the

Pleasant shopping in a quiet environment

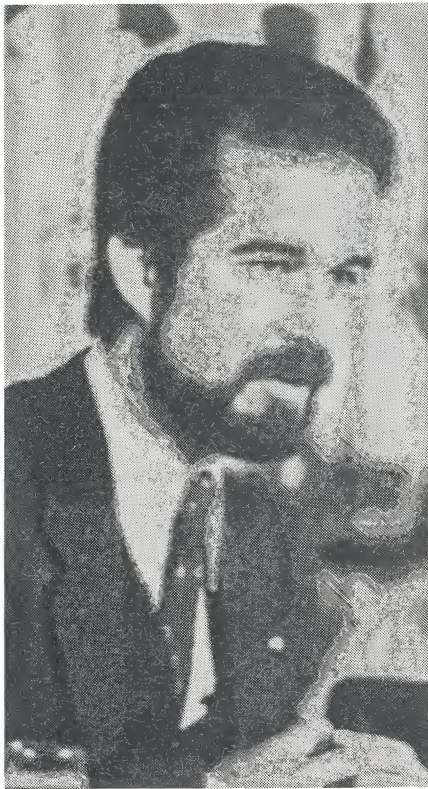
for your: COSMETICS
 PERFUMES
 PRESCRIPTIONS
 BABY-ARTICLES
 FIRST-AID NEEDS, etc.



ANTILLIAN DRUGSTORE

- AMPLE PARKING FACILITIES
- OPEN FROM 8.00 A.M. – 7.00 P.M.
- HOME DELIVERIES POSSIBLE

KAYA FLAMBOYANT 1A – TEL. 76200-76208



DP's Diaz

time being. This should allow it to upgrade its organization, renew its leadership and redefine its programme. Expectations are that the D.P. will develop towards a liberal alternative. The PNP leaped forward on account of Mrs. Liberia's personal appeal. She wisely decided to forfeit her ministerial post in the national cabinet and take up a position on the island level. Her challenge is twofold: to exercise strong party leadership and at the same time perform convincingly as a commissioner in the island government of Curaçao. Over-extending herself might place her in very much the same position as Mr. Martina who seems to have lost at least some control over his own party.

Press

Concern about the role of the press in general has during these eventful months become widespread. Instead of contributing critical analyses most papers went in for spiteful attacks on politicians and parties not of their liking. Some of them even seem to take a morbid

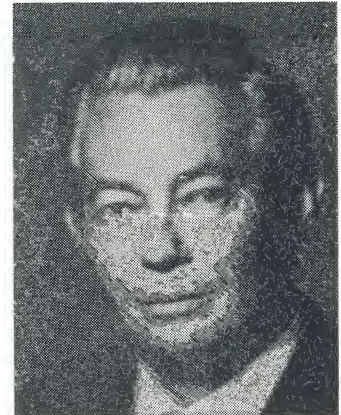
pleasure in announcing economic disaster. One of the explanations of the D.P.'s heavy losses may be found in the below the belt attacks of the D.P. affiliated papers disgusting many basically D.P. inclined voters. With the worsening of the economic situation this may well help kindle social unrest, which is the last thing the country needs at this moment.

Cabinet

The developments in Aruba have been described elsewhere in this issue. With regard to the national cabinet the unexpectedly large victory of the MEP implies the necessity of a reshuffling of partners. The present Aruban coalition member AVP has consequently announced its decision to withdraw and make room for the MEP. The experience of the past years, however, has taught that the MEP is a difficult coalition partner to deal with, as it is only motivated by the Aruban cause of status aparte and little interested in the welfare of the entire nation. This does not seem to hold a promise for much decisive governing.

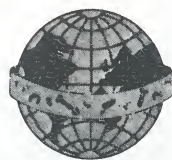
On the other hand Mr. Martina after several years of experience leading the country, backed up by a new vote of confidence of the majority of Curaçao's population and not having to face an election for three years, may be expected to rise to the occasion.

Confidence in his ability still runs strong and assures him for the



Wathey

time being of the nation's backing. With a view to the troublesome situation he will need all of that and more. ■



CARIBBEAN FASTENERS N.V.

**MASTERS IN
FASTENERS**



DOKWEG Z/N
P.O. BOX: 890

TEL. 76227 - 76288
TELEX: 3408

AVAILABLE IN SMALL ECONOMY SIZE!

If you need a small copier, consider the Xerox 2600.

It fits snugly on office tables and into office budgets. Still, it's every inch a Xerox copier.

It delivers Xerox-quality copies in seconds. It copies from bound volumes. It not only copies on regular paper, but also on colored paper, transparencies, even your own letterhead.

And it's backed by the Xerox service network coast to coast.

So if you're in the market for an inexpensive copier, call us at one of these numbers:

Aruba,	phone	25492
Curaçao,	„	70233
Bonaire,	„	8060
Sint Maarten	„	2174

We'll show you how the Xerox 2600 offers something others don't.

The quality and reliability of a Xerox copier. In a convenient, money-saving package.



XEROX ANTILLIANA N.V.

XEROX ® and 2600 are trademarks of XEROX CORPORATION
used by XEROX ANTILLIANA N.V. as a registered affiliate.

Croesified

Summing it all up only one word applies: ugly!

The incident itself, which almost killed Mr. Betico Croes, Aruba's most popular politician; the unlawful demonstration of the majority party preceding the shooting; the wilful stirring up of the crowd's emotions for no sensible reason; the subsequent abuse of the sad event for political gain; the pointless act of revenge mowing down two youngsters, killing one; it might fit the picture of a revolution except that Aruba never had one.

On the contrary, the struggle for *status aparte* waged at the conference table, had only weeks before been crowned with success. The hour called for celebration and sober planning of the future. Instead the island experienced the darkest hour of its history hitherto: ugly, senseless and with little promise for the future.

Political car-parades are common practice on Aruba in election times. For reasons of public order the authorities deemed it wise to allow only one of such happenings to take place at any given time. On Sunday April 24, the opposition party was to have its turn. Mr. Croes' MEP none the less decided to proceed holding such a parade as well, although permission had been refused. When the police intervened rather belatedly, trouble broke out. A gun shot was heard and Mr. Betico Croes was carried off to the hospital seriously wounded.

First reports said a policeman had fired the almost fatal shot. Certain is that the officer fired a warning shot in the air just before Croes was hit. Not so sure is whether he next purposely aimed at Mr. Croes or whether his arm was pulled down thus causing the accident. Some even doubt whether the bullet, which was never recovered, was fired from the policeman's gun at all. No official reading of the events has yet been released by the authorities. Most observers, however, adhere to the view of an unfortunate accident brought about by the heat of the moment.

With only five days to go before elections Betico's political associates immediately seized upon the opportunity to boost their party's cause. An assault, they claimed, had been committed on their leader's life. The Central Government, in particular the minister of Justice, a member of the opposition party AVP, was, they said, to be held responsible. Telegrammes were sent to the Dutch and Antillean authorities protesting this onslaught on the Aruban action. Overnight Betico

Croes was made a hero who had shed his blood for the 'holy cause'. As R. Laurillard wrote in the renowned Dutch magazine Elsevier, a process of mythologizing was set into motion. His last words before being driven off to the hospital as well as his first question upon regaining consciousness after his operation, were quoted as revealing his deep concern for the 'people of Aruba'. When the votes were counted on the Friday following the eventful weekend, Croes' party had gained an absolute majority in the island parliament. But that same night another shooting took place. Two young boys, were gunned down, one fatally, by members of Betico's alleged bodyguard. Both belonged to families connected with the opposition. Two hours later Betico Croes was hurriedly flown out to the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida. The unofficial reading: he would have had to share the intensive care room in Aruba's only hospital with the dangerously wounded boy.

Officially it was announced that he needed treatment the Oduber Hospital in Aruba could not provide. Whatever the truth Mr. Croes survived his personal ordeal and is reported to be recovering well.

Whether the same can be said about Aruba is still an open question. The incident and its aftermath have confirmed earlier analyses indicating an erosion of respect for the law and of democracy in general on the island. The issue of *status aparte* was made into such a 'holy cause' that by implication all other values were increasingly regarded as of a lesser priority. The suggested linkage between the cause

and the MEP, or rather with Mr. Croes himself, promoted at least subconsciously the idea that he could overrule the institutions of law enforcement if not the law itself. The demonstration on the 24th of April stands as an example not by itself.

Any form of opposition to the MEP even if in favour of *status aparte* came to be seen as treason to the cause of Aruba. A high degree of patronizing by the MEP, moreover, seriously undermined the authority and effectiveness of the civil services.

Consequently the totally unwarranted accusations by Mr. Croes' associates following the incident were readily believed and accepted by many. This in turn has further eroded the respect for the police, the Department of Justice and the Central Government.

Two developments may still turn this ugly tide that seems to be sweeping over the proud and industrious island.

Now that Mr. Croes is getting well it may be expected that he will be heard by the authorities fairly soon. A factual report on what really took place, substantiated by the testimonies of witnesses including Mr. Croes himself and whatever evidence the police may have at its disposal, will no doubt do much towards de-mythologizing the event.

Mr. Croes himself is beyond any doubt the only person who can restore mutual trust on the island and respect for the authorities in general. Once more his leadership is tested. Not this time whether he is able to lead his people to the much desired *status aparte*. That has in principle been achieved. The challenge he faces now is inspiring his people with the basic values of democracy. ■



- OPTICS
- CONTACT LENSES
- CAMERA'S

FOR QUALITY AND SERVICE

ODUBER & KAN
OPTICIANS
OPTICS - CONTACTLENSES - CAMERAS

CURAÇAO : TEL. 611939

ARUBA : TEL. 24720

CARIBETOURS
TRAVEL SERVICE N.V.

FOR ALL YOUR

BUSINESS- AND VACATION TRIPS

CONTACT YOUR FRIENDLY TRAVEL AGENT:



CARIBETOURS
TRAVEL SERVICE N.V.

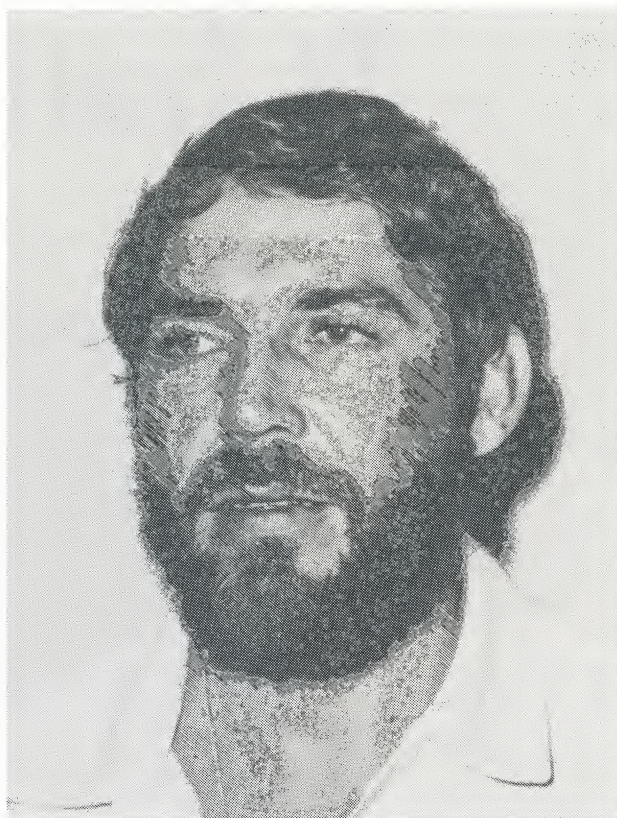


P.O. Box 210 - Pietermaaipelein 14 - Willemstad, Curaçao N.A. - Tel. 611077 (5 lijnen), Salinja: 70272 - 78907 - Cables: Caribe NA

Progressive socialist takes over

interview by H. W. Linkels

His philosophy of life is of an honest simplicity: to share one's bread with others. Consequently he has continuously been in the front row struggling against injustice keeping his distance from the establishment. As might be expected he has been called a communist, follower of Che Guevarra and such like. But Jopie Abraham, who led his Democratic Party to victory last April after 14 years in the opposition, labels himself just left of the middle with no taste for radicalism but not afraid to take drastic measures if the situation calls for it. And as he sees it Bonaire may need a few of those measures.



Jopie Abraham

Johan Evert Abraham is no stranger to politics. In 1954, when Jopie was 6 years old, his father founded the Democratic Party of Bonaire. During the next 6 years father Julio was intensively involved in politics both on the island and national level. After his death in 1960 Jopie's elder brother Toon took over the leadership of the party, which remained in power till 1969. Thus Jopie's youth was steeped in politics. Having inherited his fathers idealism his views were further developed while studying in Holland. When he returned to his island in 1970 few appreciated his progressive ideas and outspoken opinions.

Obliged to serve the government for five years having recieved a government sponsored civil service training, he could not but consent when he was told to go to Curaçao and take up a position at one of the ministries. In 1975 Jopie had paid his dues and was free to return to Bonaire. Not long afterwards he was appointed head of the Bonaire section of the Department of Social Affairs. A

position he still holds.

Family

Already during the years in Curaçao Jopie's socialist leanings were very evident. Immediately upon arrival he joined the movement of young progressives protesting traditional politics. Several of the trade-unions employed his services as an advisor. Back on Bonaire he continued in the same vein. Closely involved in the formation of both the Bonaire Labour Union and the Bonaire Petroleum Workers Union he assisted the labour movement in the years to follow in an advisory capacity. Soon too, Jopie, began to take an interest in the island's political affairs, which were dominated by Mr. Rudy Ellis married to one of his sisters. Their political views contrasted sharply and though bound by family ties they became fierce opponents. In the 1982 national elections Mr. Ellis' party, the Union Patriotico Bonairiano, managed to hold on to a majority. Jopie, who had patiently been rebuilding the Democratic Party, however, took the

lead in the island elections of last April. The resulting picture is that Jopie's party has a governing majority in the island council which, it should be noted, is highly dependent on the financial goodwill of the national government in which Mr. Rudy Ellis holds a cabinet post!

Insiders expect, however, that Abraham's party will take over from Ellis on the national level within a reasonable span of time.

Programme

But first of all there will be the transition of leadership on the island level. On July 2nd the island council will meet in its new formation. "We will first of all take stock in particular of the financial situation by means of a thorough investigation to be undertaken by an independent accountant and the National Audit Department", says Mr. Abraham. "Only after that has been done will we be able to do any real planning and inform the people properly. The government has a lot of money outstanding which will have to

It hath Math.



And it can check your Spelling in 6 different languages

The New IBM Display writer System

Announcing A Big Plus: Math

You can add, subtract, multiply and divide on the Displaywriter. And it verifies your figures by checking them against the figures you're typing from. So you don't have to worry about mistakes.

It Checks Your Spelling in 6 Languages

The Displaywriter has an electronic dictionary. It can check the spelling of about 50,000 words in English. And over 150,000 words in 5 other languages. At 1,000 words a minute. Muy bueno, n'est-ce pas?

The Urge To Merge

Now you can merge all different kinds of information into documents. Say you have a series of forms. You type the information only once, and the Displaywriter puts whatever data is needed where it's needed. And with our new diskette and diskette unit you can store almost 4 times as much information as before.

It's Easy To Remember Because There's Nothing To Forget

The Displayer uses prompts. We call them our Task Selection Menus and they appear on our screen to guide you step by step. You don't have to remember a series of confusing codes. That means

that almost as soon as you get a Displaywriter System, you use a Displaywriter System.

How Much Is That In Guilders?

Surprise. The basic IBM Displaywriter System costs NAFs. 15,553 including the basic program.

Amazing, when you realize how much time and money a word processor saves you in the first place.

Extraordinary, when you compare its features to other word processors.

Which is precisely why this ad hath been written.



be collected. On the other hand some developments, which have been going on for years consuming large amounts of money, will have to be stopped. And finally the government service will be re-organized in accordance with the demands of the present times, which certainly means promoting efficiency".

Mr. Abraham, who does not intend to take upon himself the function of commissioner, but like Mr. Betico Croes of Aruba prefers an advisory role in the island government, foresees the possibility of turning Bonaire into a free trade zone for a certain period of time. This would make the island more attractive to investors, who — he is quick to add — will have to agree to certain conditions. A development programme will have to be designed in order to avoid catastrophes like the costly Flamingo Paradise project. Small realistic projects will be given priority during the next four years. Mr. Abraham is of the opinion that promoting industry will have to be weighed against the importance of keeping Bonaire's natural environment unspoiled. Priority no. 1 on his list, however, are the pressing social problems of unemployment and housing.

According to Mr. Abraham, who took part in the 1982 and 1983 Round Table Conferences in The Hague, Holland has tried to use the Aruban question as a lever to force the other five islands towards independence as well. Mr. Abraham has opposed that effort in no uncertain terms. Says he "our Democratic Party is against colonialism but having been colonized for 350 years, we must now be allowed to decide for ourselves when the ties with the old mother country will be severed".

Region

Once more he stresses the need for close co-operation between the six islands in the future. He also is of the opinion that with regard to independence it is im-

portant to have closer connections with the surrounding Caribbean countries. "Our histories may not have run the same course, but the very fact that we have all been colonized implies that there is much to exchange with regard to economic and social matters." Closer co-operation, he feels, will be to everyone's benefit. He dreams of a Caribbean Union in the future. This should not imply, he states, meddling in each other's internal affairs. "Whether a leftist or rightish government is in power should not be our concern. The all important issue is to serve our common interest as nations of one region. This applies also to Venezuela, our large neighbour with whom we do already have a certain measure of cultural co-operation."

Too much influence from outside, however, should be guarded against, he takes care to observe, in order not to frustrate the process of nationbuilding.

Jopi remarks: "No laga nos cai for di panchi den candela", (we should take care not to fall out of the frying pan into the fire) meaning that too close ties with a large country like Venezuela might be worse in the end than living under the influence of Holland. Anyhow, the latter's presence in the islands has given a certain measure of stability and in comparison to the other Caribbean nations Abraham considers Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao to be quite well off.

Survival

Abraham has always been known to be a rebel. He certainly earned himself that reputation in The Hague. During both RTC meetings, mentioned before, he voiced his opinions in no uncertain terms. His knowledge of the constitution and laws regulating government has helped him considerably to stand up against dyed in the wool Dutch politicians. He is looked upon by the cabinet in The Hague as the enfant terrible of the Antilles!

At the last RTC Jopi was pretty

annoyed about Mr. Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime-minister taking part in decisions concerning the Antilles, a country he had not yet visited even once. When Mr. Lubbers flew to the Antilles last May, Jopi vacationing in Miami hurried back home to meet him and show the Dutch leader around his island personally. On several occasions it had struck him that the Dutch make little difference between the three ABC islands. This was his chance to convince Mr. Lubbers of the very different position of Bonaire as compared to Curaçao with its Shell and Drydock and to Aruba with the Lago (Exxon) and well developed tourism.

His party, moreover, favours decentralization of government services in order to forego the present time consuming bureaucracy. "this implies, however, an increase of staff and consequently of expenditure", Jopi explains. He told Mr. Lubbers that Holland will have to assist considerably as Bonaire has no means and the other islands cannot be expected to supply the extra needed funds.

No doubt he will repeat this message when in July Mr. Jan de Koning, Dutch minister of Antillean Affairs, arrives for a working visit on Bonaire. "Against its own principles", according to Abraham, "Holland has backed up the separatist movement of Aruba. As a result the Antillean islands will not become independent together. The stepping out of Aruba will have grave financial consequences for the other five, in particular for the smaller islands Bonaire included." In his opinion Holland will have to bear the main brunt as it must be held responsible for this development. "That" he concludes "was the one issue we all agreed upon at the last RTC in The Hague".

As much as Jopi fights for the rights of the underdog in society, he will fight for the survival of his island, that much is clear. ■

CICS

For the Netherlands Antilles as International Centre for Industrial Trade and Banking is the existence of an independent and completely self-supported Data Processing Service Centre of essential importance. CICS (say "cicks"), only two years in the run, yet with an established reputation, acquired through her professional approach, the dedication of well-trained and graduated personnel, and her conception of "high degree of service-rendering", offers existing companies and new investors a complete service package:

ACTIVITIES:

- * Consultancy
- * System Development
- * Data-Processing Services, batch, remote-batch, on-line
- * Facilities Management
- * Education and Training

CAPACITIES:

- * A total of 18 experienced designers and programmers (still growing fast)
- * Hardware: IBM 4331, L02 with 4 Megabytes mainstorage (largest on Curaçao) and 1713 Megabytes on-line storage.

For free booklet with detailed information, write or call:

Curaçao International Computer Services N.V.

Schouburgweg z/n Tel. 70777

OHRA

JUNE 9, 1963



**assurantiekantoor
j.p. van der lubbe n.v.**

JUNE 9, 1983

This month we celebrate the occasion that 20 years ago we started promoting OHRA insurances, giving participants a worldwide coverage against medical expenses.

OHRA and Assurantiekantoor J. P. van der Lubbe are still expanding and improving. The combination of a good product backed by a good service.

For more information on OHRA as well as all other types of insurances, call us at 70911/14, 70915 (OHRA-dept.),
or visit our office at

PLUTOSTRAAT 2, CURAÇAO, NETH. ANTILLES

 **assurantiekantoor j.p. van der lubbe n.v.**

Canadian Pacific Hotels forced to leave

Unwise decision according to manager Michael Broadhurst

An Interview by Paul Comenencia

With the departure in October next of Canadian Pacific Hotels, which for the last seven years has been running the island's oldest hotel, the Curaçao Plaza, Curaçao will once more be forfeiting an affiliation to one of the big names in the hotel business.

Tired – according to his own words – of seeing the government-owned Plaza continue to lose money, commissioner of Tourism Mr. George Hueck recently ordered the board of directors to inform CP's representatives that if by the last quarter of this year the hotel was not made profitable, CP's management contract would not be renewed. The ongoing economic recession, however, which afflicts the tourism industry in particular, makes it highly improbable that Plaza's books will show a profit by that time. There is little doubt therefore that the hotel management will indeed change hands in the coming fall. Expectations are that Hart Hotel Management, a local group already operating several hotel-related enterprises in the Antilles, amongst which the Plaza casino, will take over in November.

Michael Broadhurst, Plaza's general manager and president of the Curaçao Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) recently agreed to share his views on the government's ultimatum, the hotel's situation and Curaçao's handling of its third most important economic pillar with Antillen Review.

Inconsistent policy

In spite of his age (38) Mr. Broadhurst is an old hand in the

hotel business. He was only 13 when he started off his career peeling potatoes in the kitchen of a London hotel. Later on he successfully completed a four year hotel school course and from the age of 26 on he has been successively managing six hotels, one of them as large as 800 rooms. Mr. Broadhurst is convinced that no

made money”.

Yet he disagrees with the Curaçao government's decision. Canadian Pacific should, in his opinion, be allowed to continue the job since “making a change in midstream” is not exactly the best thing to do.

Nor does he agree with commissioner Hueck's intention of putting as many hotels as possible in



Michael Broadhurst

other company could have made money at the Plaza “during the last couple of years”. At the same time he frankly admits having made mistakes: “1980 was the last year we could have made money and should have but we didn't. I think, frankly, that we allowed the union to get too much control over what we were doing. We became over-staffed and eh . . . we were not totally consistent in where we were heading. “If we had been a little more consistent we would have

local hands: “I think there are definite advantages in having international companies. In my opinion there are a lot of people going on vacation who like to have a name they can feel secure with. And I think Curaçao, being a relatively unknown destination, probably needs to have international companies”.

Broadhurst occasionally utters a deep sigh like someone tired of repeating the same phrases over and over again. ■

"When the name Canadian Pacific comes off this property, this will affect the way some people look at the property".

Tourism development

For over a year now Michael Broadhurst has been the president of the Curaçao Hotel and Tourism Association. Under his presidency the association expanded by adding the word **tourism** to its name and by admitting more people concerned with the tourism business. Broadhurst personally thinks that is the one big achievement the CHTA reached during his term of office.

Apart from that, he says: "we've set up a list of all the problems that we have and a list of problems that we see on the island. We've recognized that there wasn't enough for the tourist to do in Curaçao that was inexpensive and fun. So the Ban Topa Festival was organized, initiated by the Hotel Association and largely paid for by the government. We've done a lot of promoting and we've got ourselves into a lot more brochures than we've ever been in before . . .".

The CHTA-president says his organization maintains very good relations with the Curaçao Tourist Office but he believes there still is much room for improvement:

"The only thing that I think is a shame is that in Curaçao the tourist office spends far too much time on tourist promotion and not nearly enough time on tourism develop-

ment".

He regrets that there is no government organization in Curaçao trying to upgrade the street signs to the beaches, trying to clean up the beaches or trying to improve parking for tourists downtown.

The tourist office seems to be into promotions while I think tourism development is a part of their job they should be more into".

"Last year", Broadhurst continues, "the Curaçao government advertised the island in the New York Times. Each of the advertisements cost 20,000 dollars.

For the price of one of those adverts" he says, "we could've set up a sailing school here. You know . . . Give someone a loan to set himself up in business and buy ten or fifteen sailboats. Eventually the man would be able to pay the loan back, we would've created a couple of jobs plus we would have made a slightly better tourism infrastructure".

Future markets

How about Curaçao's marketing strategy abroad?

Broadhurst thinks too much time has been lost trying to lure the Venezuelan tourist to Curaçao and not enough time developing new markets.

"In April of this year I had 307 room nights sold to Venezuelans, which is an average of ten a night.

In April of last year I had 2600 room nights sold to Venezuelans, which is almost 90 a night. Now I've got to catch up 80 rooms every night because of the Bolivar problem in Venezuela. And there is no other market which could pick that up, not even if I doubled all my business elsewhere".

What are the markets Broadhurst believes have great potential for Curaçao?

"Philadelphia" he says quickly. "We're not expecting it to bring many people down this same summer, but we hope that it will lay the groundwork so that next winter the flights will be full".

Also Broadhurst counts on European tourists which he says go on long vacations and don't mind



**commercial photography
HART'S CAMERA N.V.**

curaçao n.a.

since: 1962

- * aerial - mapping
- * industrial
- * architectural
- * repro
- * portraits
- * passphoto's



613487

dr. hugenholtzweg 36

spending.

Besides that, Europe is not a difficult market to get into either. "There are probably a dozen different airlines that you can take to get from Europe to here".

Does he think tourism in Curaçao will improve soon?

"I guess in Curaçao there is no shortage at all of ideas and ways of how to improve tourism. The only thing we're short of is a little more action on the development of tourism".

How about the hotel he has unsuccessfully managed for the last three years?

"I wanted to stay here until the hotel was made profitable and was turned around and I thought very strongly that with some renovations to the property the hotel could be turned around and could make money".

Michael Broadhurst will probably be remembered by his staff as a guy with a tremendous sense of humor and as the only general manager who took pains to learn to speak and write Papiamentu in his efforts to better understand and communicate with his people.

"Masha dänki", was one of his favourite Papiamentu words. ■

De Taveerne

STYLISH DINING
IN A
HISTORIC ATMOSPHERE

Lunch 12 noon - 3 p.m.
Dinner 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

"Landhuis" Groot Davelaar

Curaçao - Phone: 70669

Closed on Sunday

CURAÇAO

Election Analysis

	Entitled to vote	Votes cast	Where the votes went						Age 18 - 21	Non-Curaçaoenes
			PNP	MAN	DP	FOL	(PSD)	(META)		
			'82	102.176	71.912	16.672	28.217	17.635		
'83	104.330	70.509	23.245	23.394	14.799	4.500	1.745	1.443	8.421	16.649
%	+2.11%	-1.95%	+39.43%	-17.09%	-16.37%	+63.46%	-42.82%	-29.40%	8.07% of total	16.95% of total

MAN does not seem to be very popular with the younger voters. The DP is the clear choice of the affluent. The PNP advanced all over the island, most notably amongst lower and middle income groups. The FOL (surprise!) did well mostly in districts with a high percentage of non-Curaçaoene voters (Dutch, Surinamese etc.).

These are some of the interesting findings from an analysis of the April elections undertaken on behalf of AR. Voters' behaviour in each of the 93 districts was studied carefully, and an average performance percentage was established for each party. Special attention was given to the youngest group of voters (18-21) and the non-Curaçaoenes. With a fair degree of certainty the following conclusions can be drawn.

MAN, still the largest party, lost steadily in every district. Only in 21 did Mr. Martina's party score higher than its average performance per-

centage. In other words: the minor losses in 21 districts made up for the greater decline in the other 73.

The downward trend is most notable in the areas of lower income groups. MAN apparently has little appeal among the younger voters. Only in 4 out of the 25 districts in which the 18 - 21 age-group is percentage-wise larger than average, did the MAN do relatively well.

PNP the christian democratic party, increased its support in 90 districts. It did so mostly at the expense of the MAN: 32 of the 40 districts in which the PNP performed above average rendered below or average results for the MAN. It should be remembered that the average figure for MAN is negative. In 26 of those positive PNP districts both the MAN and DP lost heavily. Thus it may be assumed that the PNP also took votes from the Democratic Party, in particular in the lower income areas.

The **DP's** results render a far less stable picture than those of the other two larger parties. In 6 districts it ad-

vanced and in another 6 it managed to hold on to its position. But more important in 29 districts it scored higher than its average percentage, which is 8 districts more than the MAN. The party's support is percentage-wise strongest in the affluent sections of the island. As indicated above its losses in the lower income areas were above its own average performance figure.

Indications are that the **youngest voters**, for as much as they actually took part in the elections, favoured the PNP. In 25 districts the group is represented higher than average. In 12 of those districts the PNP performed higher than its own average. The comparative figure for the MAN and DP are respectively 4 and 2 districts. Another interesting detail: the META, which did not attain a seat in the island council, did relatively well in those districts with a high percentage of young people. The figure here is 11.

Non-Curaçaoenes are concentrated in 27 districts. Comparing the better performance districts of each party with those 27, it appears that the PNP and the MAN are not the foreigners' choice. The DP, however, did relatively well in 17 of those 27 districts. Surprisingly the FOL grew impressively in 24!

With regard to the last mentioned party it should be observed that due to its small support the increase of a few votes may yield a picture in percentages which can easily be misread.

If the assumption that the foreigners voted mainly for the DP (and FOL) is correct than it can be concluded that a fair percentage of this group did not vote at all. That might in turn mean that the ever growing group of non-voters consists largely of young and non-Curaçaoene people. Exactly the groups which were given little attention in the election campaigns. ■



BARBECUES * BUFFET * FOOD-SNACK * DRINKS * SET UP * PARTIES

General Catering Services

just a phonecall away from you!

dial **77499** for

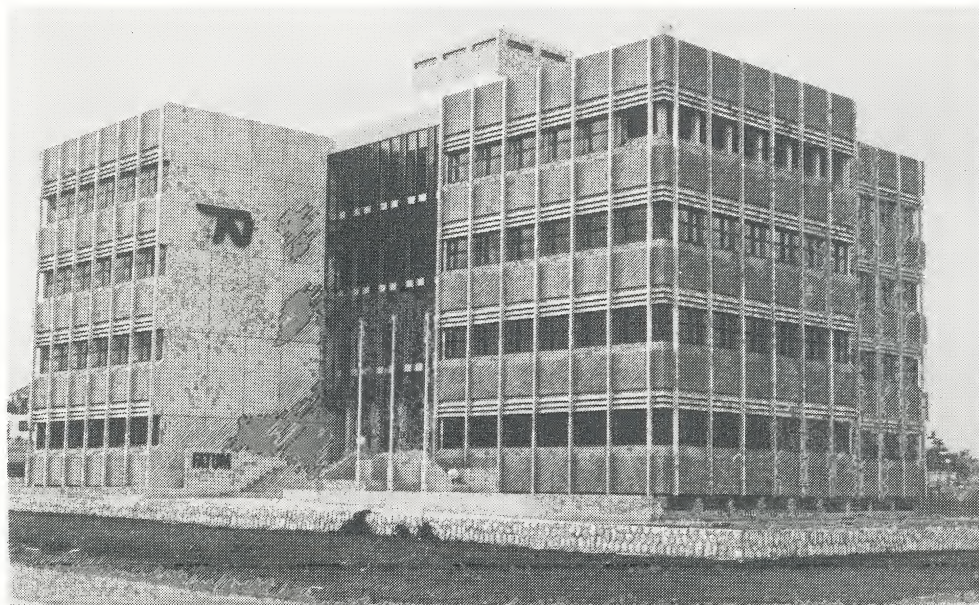
WHATEVER YOU NEED; WHENEVER YOU NEED US.

Set your party-date, invite your guests, tell us your requirements, and you're all set for your party; tailor-made exactly the way YOU want it to be! We can take care of the whole party or part of it.

* Our local "krioyísimo" and international cuisine is also geared to take out orders of food and snacks.

We're at your service at:

Sta. Rosaweg, corner Fransche Bloemweg



We are specialized in:

- ▶ UTILITY CONSTRUCTIONS
- ▶ FACTORIES
- ▶ HOUSING PROJECTS

CURACAO · BONAIRE · ST. MAARTEN · ARUBA



albo n.v.
NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN

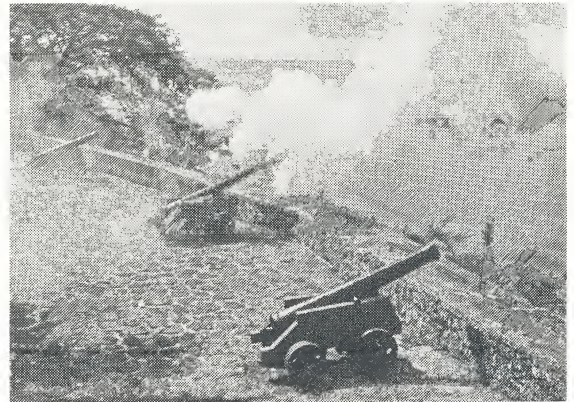
Enjoy

Coca-Cola

Trade-mark ®

E KAMPEON!

Statia defines development priorities



Golden Rock

Once known as the golden rock, officially called St. Eustatius but commonly named Statia, the smallest island but one of the Netherlands Antilles did not take long to avail itself of the opportunities presented by the Round Table Conference between the Antilles and the Netherlands held in February 1981.

Dutch development aid, it was decided at that occasion, should increasingly be used for the financing of development programmes rather than of individual projects as had hitherto been the case.

Within two years Statia's Executive Council not only managed to draw up an integrated development programme but also to get approval to start execu-

ting the first three projects on its priority list.

Objectives

In order to formulate a feasible development plan the Executive Council requested the assistance of the Department of Development Cooperation in Willemstad. A subsequently appointed team of experts first of all presented the Council with a number of working papers describing development potentials in different areas.

But even more important: the team suggested the appointment of a planning committee as a Statian counterpart to itself.

Moreover, to ensure an effective participation of the local popula-

tion it was proposed to invite 10 citizens to form the committee. In June 1982 the Planning Committee was officially appointed and immediately started studying the prepared working papers. Thirteen of such papers dealing with different aspects of Statian society were discussed within a few months! This procedure did allow for considerable local input and promoted a strong sense of involvement.

The next stage of this carefully planned process consisted of formulating objectives and goals.

Both the Executive Council and the Planning Committee shared the view that creating a sound social and physical infrastructure was an absolute prerequisite for any further development. Improving the employment situation as well as conserving the islands historical heritage and natural environment, were also seen as guiding principles for the intended development strategy.

These opinions are reflected in the list of objectives officially formulated by the Executive Council with the assistance of the afore-mentioned Development Team:


- Productive sectors:
- agricultural development
 - tourism promotion

*VISITING THE
WINDWARD ISLANDS?*

Make sure you fly with reliable
St. Maarten based

WINAIR

————— to: →



**ANGUILLA
NEVIS
SABA
ST. EUSTATIUS
ST. BARTHELEMY
ST. KITTS
ST. THOMAS**

WINDWARDS ISLANDS AIRWAYS INT'L N.V.

Juliana Airport — St. Maarten N.A. — P.O. Box 288 — Phone 4230/4237

Public sectors:

- restoration of the government guesthouse
- upgrading of the island's civil service

Social infrastructure:

- construction of a new elementary school
- (new) hospital
- construction of low income homes
- construction of a sportcomplex

Physical infrastructure:

- road improvement
- construction of a water reservoir
- renovation of the pier
- a masterplan for the harbour
- extension of the airport

Finance

An impressive list, which, however, by far exceeds Statia's own financial means as well as the

amount of development aid presently available. Consequently alternative financial resources have to be looked for.

At present financing of the development projects on the island is largely taken care of by the Dutch Government and the European Development Fund. The Antillean (Central) Government supplies funds for those projects which are considered her immediate responsibility.

Other institutions, that have contributed in the past are the United Nations Development Programme and a number of Dutch foundations.

In the meantime several projects of the designed development programme have been approved by the Dutch for funding. They concern the extension of the electrical power plant, the construction of 25 lower income houses and the renovation of

roads.

Making a start with the realization of the development programme will give the Planning Committee and the development team a chance to learn about Statia's capacity for adjustment and if necessary adjust the programme itself to changing needs and circumstances.

The conclusion that Statia has at least done a thorough job of planning its own future development seems fully warranted!

The content of this article was taken from a paper especially written for AR by the Department of Development Co-operation. ■

YOUR SOLID LINK

The oldest commercial banking group in the Netherlands Antilles.....your bankers for all your business.....at your service for all banking transactions within, from, and to the Netherlands Antilles.

for all bank transactions



CARIBBEAN MERCANTILE BANK NV
ARUBA



MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK NV
CURACAO



MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK NV
BONAIRE



THE WINDWARD ISLANDS BANK NV
ST. MAARTEN

Affiliated with The Bank of Nova Scotia - Toronto, Canada



Economic survey

by H. C. Beers

In the period January through April 1983 the net official foreign exchange reserves with the Central Bank fell by f 16 million, which is in line with the seasonal pattern of the balance of payments.

At the end of April the reserves reached a level of f 318 million, which is f 89 million higher than a year ago. The Central Bank seemed still reluctant to quote an official rate for the Venezuelan Bolivar. The commercial banks were dealing at a rate of about Bs. 10 per US dollar. The low Bolivar rate made it possible for Venezuelan articles to compete on the Antillean market, in particular with the locally made products, which were already protected by high import duties. The government reacted by issuing an import embargo.

The department of economic affairs published a price comparison of interest rates as quoted by the local commercial banks. Interest rates appeared slightly higher on Aruba than on Curaçao. On both islands the rates had fallen in April. No inflation rate has been published. The latest figures referred to October 1982. Inflation is estimated to run at a pace of about 6% per year.

After the elections the Curaçao Drydock Company announced the expected measures comprising a lay-off of 290 employees and a reduction of wages by 15%. The measures are deemed necessary to ensure the continuity of the company and to restore its profitability.

Foreign exchange reserves

During the first two months of 1983 the balance of payments was able to produce a surplus of f 11 million. However, in the consecutive two months of March and April the net official reserves with the Central Bank fell by f 27 million from a level of f 345 million at the end of February to f 318 million at the end of April. As a result the period January through April 1983 showed a deficit of f 16 million.

Compared with the corresponding month of last year the level of foreign exchange reserves is still high, showing an increase of f 89.3 million.

This growth was mainly the result of higher transfers by the oil refinery of Lago Aruba and the collecting of arrears in offshore tax assessments by the island government of Curaçao. It is not expected that this will be repeated this year. Lago performed well during 1982, but did not reach the profit level of the previous year.

Consequently the profit tax and the volume of transfers from abroad will be less than the f 156 million of last year. An amount of f 130 million is expected to be received in July next.

With most of the offshore tax arrears settled these foreign exchange proceeds will probably drop this year. In view of the decreased income from tourism and shiprepairing a growth of reserves similar to last year is not likely.

Bolivar devaluation

Mid May the Central Bank was still reluctant to quote the Venezuelan Bolivar. One of the local commercial banks, however, published a rate of Bs 10 per US dollar. This rate was only valid for amounts not exceeding Bs 2000. Another sign of a cautious banking attitude was the high margin between the purchase and selling rate which amounted to about 8%.

The low rate for the Bolivar made it possible for Venezuelan exporters to compete successfully with foreign and domestically produced merchandise on the Antillean market. Especially the small protected sector of import substituting industry complained about the increased competition. The Central Government acted in a hurry and issued an embargo on the import of quite a few articles to protect the local industry. The list included all the articles that enjoyed protection of high import duties.

Importers may ask for an exemption of the embargo, which may be granted, if they can prove that they imported the articles concerned last year.

On this basis the importer is allowed to import a maximum of one-twelfth of the yearly total during the next three months.

The Central Government avoided to annoy Caracas by taking the measure of import embargo for all goods irrespective the country of origin.

However, in practice only Venezuelan articles are prohibited. In the past very

few articles were imported from that country.

Balance of Payments

Recently the external cash flow amounts for 1982 were made available by the Central Bank. The figures are shown in table 1. The survey confirmed that the growth in reserves was mainly due to higher transfers by the oil refineries and an increase in offshore tax receipts.

Imports of merchandise resumed its steady growth by 9%; during 1981 payments for imports stagnated and even fell f 20 million.

Transportation showed a substantial drop of f 90 million. Proceeds from shiphandling and storage fees decreased drastically from f 60 million and f 188 million in 1981 to f 14 million and f 104 million in 1982 respectively.

Storage fees comprise the revenues of COT and BOPEC from the handling and storage of oil. Earnings from ship repair and maintenance stayed at the same level. In 1982 an amount of f 105 million was received against f 104 million in 1981. A remarkable development occurred with respect to the inflow of passenger fares, which in practice means tickets sold by the National Airline ALM to foreigners.

The amount received climbed from f 38 million to f 51 million or by 35%. The net amount of other transportation payments improved from an outflow of f 40 million to f 17 million.

Net income from tourism decreased by f 30 million. However, gross receipts from foreigners decreased only slightly from f 783 million to f 776 million. The surge of f 23 million to a level of f 141 million in the spending abroad by residents of Aruba and Curaçao for pleasure, business and health accounted for the reduction of the net outcome. Bonaire and the Windward Islands recorded a continued growth of gross receipts. Aruba and Curaçao showed a drop of 7% and 11% to f 241 million and f 171 million. A further reduction can be expected this year. The most remarkable development occurred with respect to the component of investment income. These payments improved on a balance from an outflow of f 81 million to a mere f 6 million. The reduction in the gross payments to abroad accounted for the improvement. In 1981 an amount of f 182 million was paid compared with only f 122 million in 1982. The payments were made due to interest on loans granted by foreigners as well as because of profits and dividends paid by local corporations to foreign shareholders.

As the level of foreign debts did not fall, the improvements must be the result of a reduction in the distribution of pro-

WHAT HAS CURAÇAO TO OFFER TO NEW INDUSTRIES?

- excellent geographic position
- good air and sea connections
- healthy investment climate
- ideal natural harbour
- tax holidays and other facilities
- and **SNAV**

SHELL is able to supply a wide range of petroleum and chemical products together with sound technical advice on their use.

YOU CAN BE SURE OF



SHELL NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN VERKOOPMAATSCHAPPIJ N.V.

MIT'S

**SALES
LEASING
RENTALS &
SERVICE**

CRANES, PUMPS, TANKCLEANING EQUIPMENT, VACUUMTRUCKS
FORKLIFTS, COMPRESSORS, WELDING MACHINES, LOADERS ETC.

Kaya Buena Vista - P.O. Box 3365 - Curaçao N.A. - Telephone: 89900

The advertisement features a large black and white photograph of a CASE W208 wheel loader with its bucket raised, parked in front of a building. The building has a large 'MIT'S' logo on its side. In the top left corner of the ad, there is a stylized 'MIT'S' logo with gears. Text at the bottom of the ad lists various types of equipment offered and provides contact information for MITS.

FINANCE

fits and dividends. It would be interesting to know how far this result is caused by a similar fall in the profitability of the companies or by the retaining of profits, which were previously distributed, in order to strengthen the financial positions of the enterprises concerned.

Capital payments

The level of private capital flows stayed at the same level as the previous year, when on a net basis an outflow of f 132 million was recorded against f 140 million in 1982. The purchase of foreign securities in particular by domestic institutional investors accounted for about one-third of the outflow. The remainder consisted mainly of the redemption of foreign debts and the investment in deposit accounts abroad.

These accounts grew by f 77 million during 1982 compared with f 52 million in 1981. During the last 5 years a total of f 175 million has been recorded in connection with this kind of investments, which have certainly been influenced by the high interest rates abroad.

The government capital payments showed an inflow of money resulting from the receipt of development aid.

In 1982 an amount of f 82 million was received from the Dutch government and the EEC development fund, which is less than 1981 when f 107 million was recorded. The government repaid in 1982 f 13 million on foreign loans and f 7 million in the treasury account with the Netherlands. In 1981 the foreign loans were redeemed by f 11 million, but f 14 million was recorded as an inflow through the treasury account.

Interest rates

On the initiative of the Department of Economic Affairs some interests as quoted by the domestic banks have been published. The surveys appeared as advertisements in the local newspapers and were meant as public information, which the Department provides within the framework of comparison of domestic prices of goods and services.

The first survey was published as per the end of March and covered banks on Aruba and Curaçao. The rates referred to savings passbooks, time deposits of f 10,000.-- and mortgages. The banks on Aruba quoted slightly higher rates than their colleagues on Curaçao. At the end of April the rates on savings passbooks remained unchanged at 5% but some rates on time deposits had fallen on Aruba from 6½% to 6%. On Curaçao most of the banks quoted 5¾%.

The survey was very interesting, not only for the public, but also for the banking system itself. One of the institutions that had quoted rates for time deposits far above the market conditions at end March had reviewed its rate and stayed

TABLE 1 - Balance of payments; net amounts in f million.				
Current payments	1982	1981	change	
merchandise	-1451.0	-1328.4	-122.6	
transportation	238.4	328.8	- 90.4	
tourism	634.6	664.8	- 30.2	
investment income	- 5.9	- 80.7	+ 74.8	
government n.i.e.	240.2	146.4	+ 93.8	
private remittances	- 116.5	- 100.0	- 16.5	
transfers oil refineries	511.4	361.2	+150.2	
other services	101.4	104.5	- 3.1	
balance	+ 152.6	+ 96.6	+ 56.0	
Capital payments				
private	- 139.8	- 132.0	- 7.8	
government	61.8	111.2	- 49.4	
balance	- 78.0	- 20.8	- 57.2	
net differences	+ 16.2	+ 203	- 4.1	
surplus	90.8	96.1	- 5.3	
TABLE 2 - Condensed balance sheet Central Bank; f million				
Assets	30-4-'83	31-3-'83	28-2-'83	31-1-'83
gold stock	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4
foreign claims	324.2	334.3	350.4	346.5
loans to:				
- government	85.4	89.9	89.8	89.6
- banks	--	--	1.5	0.1
- others	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
sundry assets	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.4
total	457.7	472.2	489.9	484.1
Liabilities				
Bank notes	183.7	184.2	180.0	180.4
deposits held by:				
- tax collector	2.4	1.5	5.3	6.1
- island governments	70.3	75.9	80.4	82.9
- banks	87.0	100.6	101.5	85.8
- development projects	9.2	6.4	14.0	19.9
- other residents	17.4	17.3	15.8	17.8
- non-residents	6.2	2.3	5.4	6.4
money in custody	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
sundry liabilities	15.6	18.1	21.6	18.9
Capital and Reserves	63.8	63.8	63.8	63.8

well on the same level as its colleagues.

The same bank also reviewed its mortgage lending rate from 11% to 13% for Aruba, where now all the banks are charging at least 13%.

On Curaçao two banks reduced their mortgage lending rate from 13% to 12%, which may now be considered as the prevailing costs of mortgage financing of homes. It is a pity that the survey did not include the banks prime rate for lending to corporate clients or the effective interest rate of instalment credit and personal loans.

Curaçao Drydock Company

On Friday May, 13th, the management of the Curaçao Drydock Company announced that a total of 290 workers has to be layed off. Furthermore wages have to be reduced by 15%. Since June last year the company has experienced a slump in activities. This was caused by the world recession, a lack of sufficient orders and high prices. With government aid the company was able to meet its current liabilities.

However, reorganization appeared nec-

continued on page 46

EDMOND D'HONDT:

Development co-operation one of the most dynamic policies of the European community

Interview

Twenty years of development co-operation with third world countries have taught the European Community at least one important lesson: providing developing countries only with physical infrastructure usually does not pay. Not for those nations, to be sure. In many instances that what has been built or installed remains à *Fremdkörper*, which the local people find hard to operate and maintain. Notable exception to this rule: the Netherlands Antilles. Consequently almost 90% of the Community's assistance programmes to the Antilles, averaging some Naf 9 million per year, at least so far is devoted to strengthening the islands' infrastructures. Says Mr. Edmond D'Hondt, EEC's representative in Willemstad since August 1982: "what has been generally true does not apply in the Antilles."

Here infrastructural assistance has proven to be very effective. It is both used and maintained extremely well". Adds Mr. D'Hondt: "this is indeed an exception!"

Association

The relationship between the Netherlands Antilles and the EEC dates back to 1964 when an association was established on the basis of the Treaty of Rome.

The content of such an association is almost identical to that of the treaties the Community has concluded with a great number of independent countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, the so-called ACP states.



Edmond D'Hondt (48)

Further defined by the well-known Lome agreements (1975 and 1980) they aim at improving trade relations, helping the developing countries to stabilize their export earnings from commodities, developing their agricultural, industrial, mining and energy potential as well as improving regional co-operation and providing emergency aid when needed.

This development co-operation is as old as the Community itself. Mr. D'Hondt speaks of an historical necessity. Four of the six founding members were in those days (1958) still colonial powers:

France, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands. France in particular insisted that the colonies should be granted an associated status, thus guaranteeing continuance of the existing trade flows between the mother countries and their dependencies overseas.

France, moreover, wished the Community to share the burden of the much needed economic and social assistance programmes. According to Mr. D'Hondt this has to be seen as a double solidarity act: vis-a-vis developing countries and among the EEC-members themselves.

"The ensuing policy of development co-operation", adds D'Hondt, "has from those early days till today been one of the most dynamic sectors of the Community".

Mr. D'Hondt goes on explaining the whole net of relations the EEC has developed since 1958. As an example of the Community's response to newly arising needs he mentions the so-called European CBI (Caribbean Basin Initiative) with the aim of strengthening agrarian reform projects in those countries of Central America which implement agrarian reforms, i.e. Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

In this context the Netherlands Antilles are a specific case. Having scarcely any natural resources nor much possibilities of developing agriculture, the country does not fit the Lome provisions easily. The policy to promote a free trade flow and the strong accent on agricultural development assistance do not apply. Consequently the co-operation has focused almost exclusively on financial and technical assistance for the development of the islands' infrastructures.

Having witnessed the failure of such assistance programmes, ■

in particular in Africa, where he has a lot of experience serving the Belgian and German governments as well as the Community, Mr. D'Hondt after eight months in the Antilles speaks of a remarkable success. A compliment both for the Antilles and the Community!

Projects

In comparison to the aid given by the Netherlands, the EEC's contribution to the development of the Antilles is rather modest. For the period 1964-1985 a total amount of 90 million ECU (\pm Naf 200 million) has been earmarked for this purpose. Mr. D'Hondt, however, correctly points out that "if we take into account the relatively high level of development of the Antilles and the per capita ratio of aid given, this amount is quite tremendous".

In accordance the list of projects co-financed by the Community is impressive in more than one sense. It contains the airports, harbourworks, roads, a bridge and quite a number of schools on the three ABC islands, the new Central market in Curaçao, two piers respectively on St. Eustatius and Bonaire, a waterplant on St. Maarten, the hotel-school in Aruba, artisan foundations in Saba and Statia as well as technical and financial assistance enabling for instance the Central Government to promote industrial development and exports, and to upgrade its civil service by providing management courses.

As can be learned from AR's last issue the EEC is also contributing to the success of the Development Bank of the Netherlands Antilles by means of technical assistance and a loan of the European Investment Bank. Also the Antillean Department for Development Co-operation's programmes for the smaller islands (see AR's last and current issue under Windward Islands) are being assisted. Mr. D'Hondt makes special mention of the excellent working relationship established with this department, which, it should be noted, holds a promise for the future (see below).

Projects about to be started are the extension of St. Maarten's airport, a new meteorological building also on St. Maarten, and the establishment of a permanent crane on Saba for the purpose of dragging the harbour. The feasibility of improving the roads in Bonaire's National Park is being studied.

Decisions about applications to co-finance the improvement of the airport on Aruba, as well as a new slaughterhouse on Curaçao, a multi-annual scholarship programme, tourism promotion campaigns and a creditline to the Development Bank of the Netherlands Antilles to stimulate agriculture are to be expected before the end of the year.

Policy

Next Mr. D'Hondt, who impresses AR as highly efficient and motivated, addresses himself to the future of the association, which in its present form will terminate in 1985. Negotiations to arrive at a "Lome III", on the content of which a possible new association will depend, are expected to start this year.

Taking his lead from a television interview with Mr. Edgar Pisani, the European Commissioner for Development, which was recently broadcasted by Tele-Curaçao, Mr. D'Hondt enlarges on the ideas with regard to development co-operation presently guiding the EEC's attitude towards "Lome III".

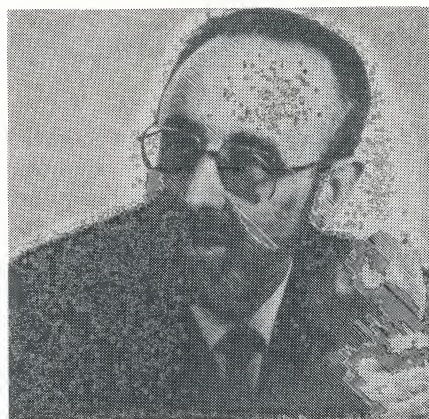
"Our primary concern in the coming period will be to assist the poorest of the developing nations to attain some measure of self-sufficiency, especially in the food sector. A heavy accent therefore will be placed on aid stimulating agricultural and rural development. Not only will this approach help these nations to become less dependent on imports, but it may also stem the disproportionate urbanization process. This thrust towards greater independence for the developing nations will not only be undertaken on a national basis, but where necessary and possible by promoting regional co-

operation".

Future

Mr. D'Hondt next touches upon a most delicate subject. In the afore mentioned interview Mr. Pisani suggests that with a view to the disappointing results of much development co-operation in the past, a policy dialogue will have to be instituted in the future between the donating and receiving parties.

This might impress some as a subtle effort to introduce a new form of paternalism into the relationship. Mr. D'Hondt, who is well acquainted with Mr. Pisani's thinking, explains: "what he means is



Edgar Pisani

that every country should plan its development according to its own insights, but the Community should be allowed to comment on such policies in order to be truly co-responsible for the implementation thereof. The accent is on dialogue and co-responsibility.

Too much assistance in the past has been of a merely receptive nature".

Applying these principles to the relationship between the EEC and the Antilles, Mr. D'Hondt points out that although the Antilles can certainly not be considered as belonging to the category of the poorest nations, their economy is one of the most vulnerable as shown by recent developments. He therefore feels that the level of co-operation should not be reduced.

Reflecting on the Antilles' re-

sources, he mentions as such geography and climate, the relatively good infrastructure, human resources and last but not least political stability, democracy and constitutional statehood. Therefore the accent on mobilizing own resources should in the case of the Antilles partly lead to a continuation of aid for infrastructural purposes.

With a view to the country's tradition of service rendering, Mr. D'Hondt is of the opinion that new initiatives in that category should be developed.

He tentatively mentions the plans for an international trade-centre and strengthening the country's role as an international financial centre.

New elements to be introduced in the next period of association might be a focus on the smaller islands, a greater effort to develop agriculture, husbandry and fishery, co-operation with regard to developing sources of alterna-



Market in Curaçao

tive energy and stimulating regional co-operation with other Caribbean nations.

Besides that he mentions the importance of upgrading professional knowledge.

The delicate subject of policy dialogue, Mr. D'Hondt concludes, should not cause any problems in the relationship with the Antilles.

He refers to an interview given by prime-minister Don Martina in

1980 to the EEC-ACP bimonthly review "The Courier".

At that occasion Mr. Martina pleaded to give priority to efforts aiming at reducing the high level of dependency and creating room for the developing nations to take as much initiative themselves as possible.

Says Edmond D'Hondt: "those thoughts are an excellent basis for the intended policy dialogue". ■

Have you seen our assortment in

escriba

office furniture?

van dorp ~
eddine n.v.

Visit our showroom:

INTERIOR CENTER BUILDING - FOKKERWEG

All informations: Tel.: 615255

6 Part 1/Tuesday, April 12, 1983

Antilles 'Firms' Help Many Evade Taxes

Report Cites Up to 25,000 Secret Corporations in Caribbean Nation

By ROBERT L. JACKSON, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Well-to-do Americans seeking to evade U.S. taxes have established almost 25,000 secret corporations in Caribbean nations...

TAXES/From IA... The situation... These 15 countries...

Tax treaties can aid chiselers, panel told

WASHINGTON—Tax cheating in the United States has reached a new peak...

IRS Takes New Steps to Fight Antilles Link to U.S. Tax Evasion

WASHINGTON—The Internal Revenue Service is initiating new steps to combat the use of the Netherlands Antilles...

Florida real estate by foreign investors is done through Antilles corporations...

Antilles Linked to U.S. Tax Evasion

WASHINGTON—The IRS has announced that it has received information...

American have set up almost 25,000 secret corporations in one Caribbean nation to evade taxes...

Antilles 'Treaty' Tax Cheating Hit

WASHINGTON—Treasury Secretary Donald Regan denied a request by the Federal National Mortgage Association...

For Debt Sale Request Denied by Regan

WASHINGTON—Treasury Secretary Donald Regan denied a request by the Federal National Mortgage Association...

The US-press and the Antillean offshore business Irresponsible and sloppy journalism

On July 12 it will be two years ago that the USA's Treasury announced its intention to renegotiate the almost twenty year old income tax protocol with the Netherlands Antilles. Since then several rounds of high level meetings between officials of both countries have taken place. Carefully prepared documents dealing with all the complicated aspects of a tax treaty have been presented by both sides. In general the negotiations have been conducted in a fair and certainly most serious manner. No wonder! A modification of the existing protocol could be extremely harmful to the Antilles' vulnerable economy, might seriously affect the US-economy itself and create social and political unrest in a hitherto stable part of the otherwise volatile Caribbean basin. (See AR. vol. 2 no. 5)

On April 12 and 13 of this year the Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs sub-committee of the House Committee on Government Operations was scheduled to hold hearings on the use of the Netherlands Antilles to avoid United States taxes, the status of efforts by the Treasury Department to renegotiate the tax treaty and the extent to which the Netherlands Antilles co-operates

with American law enforcement efforts. Hours before the hearings started the New York Times hit the streets declaring the Antilles linked to US tax evasion.

Quoting documents prepared by the afore mentioned sub-committee the Times declared that evidence had been uncovered "showing widespread use of the Netherlands Antilles for tax evasion by organized criminals and narcotics traffickers as well as by business executives". Several major US papers, like the Los Angeles Times and the Miami Herald, took up the Times' story. No evidence had by then officially been presented, nor had there been a chance to contest such allegations. On the second day of the hearings most of the so-called evidence appeared to be wishy-washy to say the least. Several days later the N.Y. Times (and others) retreated from their original accusing stance. But the damage to the Antilles' image as an above board financial centre had been done.

The question which remains is whether the publication on the 12th of April was intentional i.e. purposed to influence the proceedings of the sub-committee's hearings. The author of the article, Mr. Jeff Gerth (Special to the

New York Times), is known to be close to a small circle of members on the hill. That staff, moreover, survived a change of chairmen, which AR has been told is quite unusual. When the present chairman Mr. Doug Barnard succeeded Mr. Rosenthal (of the Bronx) who had died, one of the staffmembers, Mr. Barrash, is said to have advised him to retain the team for reasons of political expediency. Unusual too is the fact that the staff built its case against the Antilles exclusively on testimonies originating from Florida.

One of their crown witnesses was Mr. Charles Kimball 3rd, a Miami real estate consultant. Mr. Kimball had two stories to tell. One concerned Sheikh Al-Fassi, who had suddenly and mysteriously left the American scene. Not, however, because he was involved in an illegal tax-evasion scheme through the Antilles as Mr. Kimball suggested, but because his wife was demanding a 3 billion dollar divorce as People Magazine reported in extense. Mr. Kimball's second tale concerned a Middle-East business firm which invested millions of dollars in south Florida real estate through Antillean (offshore) corporations. The

money, Mr. Kimball claimed, had been made by an arms-sale to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Proof, however, he could not deliver. Fact is that the particular business firm has a longstanding reputation of reliability, which does of course not exclude the possibility that it has at times also dealt in arms.

But to accuse the Neth. Antilles of laundering millions of dollars earned in such a fashion is quite a different matter! The following may be closer to the truth. The Middle-East firm AR learned apparently fell out with its business partner in Florida, which may have caused spiteful stories to go around the Florida real-estate circuit. A few weeks ago Mr. Kimball retracted most of his accusations in the Miami Herald. Rightly so for his stories entirely lack the seriousness which befits the tax-treaty question!

That same seriousness was also

sorely lacking in the sub-committee's report suggesting widespread abuse of the tax treaty. The Los Angeles Times heading suggested that 25,000 secret corporations in the Antilles are helping many to evade taxes. During the hearings it appeared that no more than 48 of those thousands of companies registered in the Antilles are presently under investigation by the IRS!

Much was made in the report of the case of Mexivest N.V., a corporation which is said to be laundering proceeds from narcotics transactions. The report, however, forgot to mention that Mexivest N.V. is under investigation by the IRS with the full co-operation of the Attorney General of the Antilles.

The accusation that the Antillean officials do not co-operate with American law enforcement officials trying to obtain information also proved to be utterly false. In one of the cases cited the US officers

never addressed themselves to the proper authorities, but bypassing them tried to obtain information directly from the particular Trust Corporations in Curaçao.

Mr. Harold Henriquez, the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Antilles in Washington, was amply proven correct by the hearings, having written earlier to Mr. Barnard that his country has "an outstanding record in its co-operation with the United States".

The contents of the press publications were devastating for the Antilles. They were based, however, on a report — one must suspect purposely leaked to the press — which could not stand up to serious scrutinizing during the hearings. And although the US press did correctly report the different picture evolving from those hearings, it might have been expected to check and recheck Mr. Gerth's story before publishing it in a blatantly accusing tone. ■

Concorde And Nopal Introduce A Strong Idea.

PartnerShipping.

We started with a simple premise: the stronger the shipping company, the better the shipping company.

The result? PartnerShipping. And what does that mean? It's the merger of two strong corporate concerns into one—Concorde/Nopal. But in plain English, it's a better way to ship.

With a wider scope of operations. A greater choice of U.S. and Canadian exit ports. A larger, more modern fleet. And a highly adaptable intermodal support system. All under the umbrella of one strong organization. An organization of seasoned professionals.

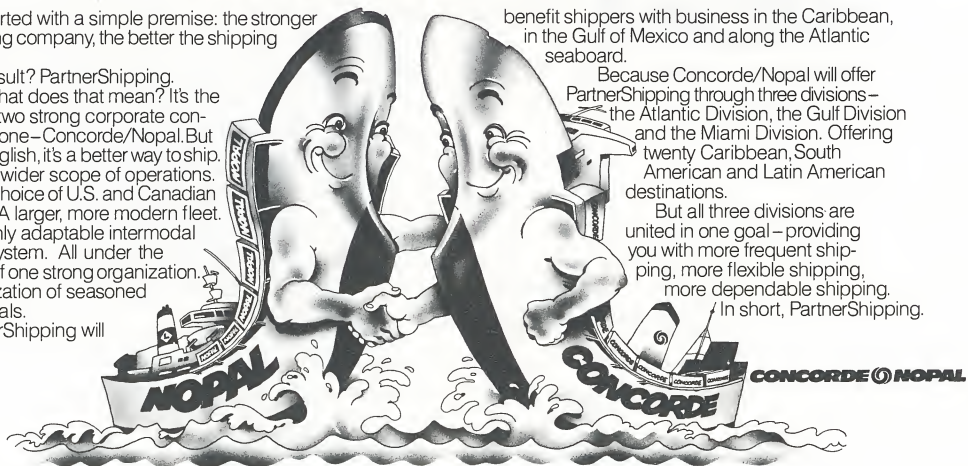
PartnerShipping will

benefit shippers with business in the Caribbean, in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic seaboard.

Because Concorde/Nopal will offer PartnerShipping through three divisions—the Atlantic Division, the Gulf Division and the Miami Division. Offering twenty Caribbean, South American and Latin American destinations.

But all three divisions are united in one goal—providing you with more frequent shipping, more flexible shipping, more dependable shipping.

In short, PartnerShipping.



Miami Division: 1040 Port Boulevard, Port of Miami, Miami, FL 33132. (305) 371-6700. (800) 327-9092. (800) 432-2128 in Florida. Gulf Division: 925 Common Street, Suite #700, New Orleans, LA 70112. (504) 581-6215 Atlantic Division: 2 Rector Street, New York, NY 10006. (212) 553-7700.

Agents: S. E. L. Maduro & Sons (Aruba), Inc. Tel.: 23888 - S. E. L. Maduro & Sons (Curaçao), Inc. Tel.: 76900 - S. E. L. Maduro & Sons (Bonaire), Inc. Tel.: 8652 / 8653

Vision, flexibility and sound management

The never failing formula for business success

Profile of an Antillean Multi-National

The pompous extravagance usually heralding a multi-billion business is pleasantly absent. Walking up to the neat low-rise building surrounded by waving palms one senses refreshing pragmatism. An impression which is confirmed when seated in the managing-director's office. Comfortable but not luxurious. And highly efficient. Trademark of 146 years of S.E.L. Maduro & Sons Inc.

Refreshing too is the discovery that multi-nationals not only come to Curaçao but also originate there! For the Maduro Holding, supervising and co-ordinating 28 subsidiary companies in the Antilles, Venezuela, Holland and the United States, certainly falls into that category. And even more important all of these companies but one are presently doing well. The secret? Talking to Oscar S. Henriquez, the Holding's managing director, AR learns of a history of embracing every opportunity, a policy of diversifying activities and keeping the size of every company within manageable bounds. A

proud detail: the firm is truly Antillean!

The origins are as fascinating as the present. On January 24, 1837, Salomon Elias Levy Maduro opened his first wholesale and retail shop on Curaçao. The sales of that day amounted to NAf. 146.75. The ledger in his own handwriting records for 1840 a total profit of NAf. 735.67. But twenty years later he owned a fleet of four ships sailing between Curaçao and New York. Valuable property was obtained at the east end of the harbour and consequently shipping has always been a major Maduro interest.

In 1874 S.E.L. Maduro took his two eldest sons into partnership. The company continued to prosper and expand. In 1902 the Maduros had their own wharf, vast storage facilities and the reputation for the fastest coal delivery in the area. Many steamship lines as well as the Dutch navy made use of their bunkering services. Quick to realize that a new development was announcing itself they became an

affiliate of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in that same year.

During world war I Maduro constructed the first oil storage tanks on Curaçao and in 1921 the firm introduced equipment which allowed ships to bunker either coal or oil with a high degree of mechanization.

In the meantime SHELL had arrived on the island. Maduro supplied building materials and constructed lighters for hauling oil. The need for banking facilities was realized and in 1916 the Maduro's Bank, Curaçao's oldest commercial bank, was established. Although today no longer an interest of S.E.L. Maduro & Sons, the firm still takes pride in being the founder of that venerable institution.

Already in shipping and bunkering as well as in hardware and banking the firm moved into the travel business in 1929, when the PAA flying-boat touched down in the harbour of Curaçao. Five years later KLM arrived and once more Maduro became the agent. Today their travel division operating

S.E.L. Maduro





LA BISTROTTE PARTY SERVICE TEAM

*A team of experts is at your service to take care of your party,
BBQ, buffet, reception or your party at home.*

Tel. 76929 - 79842



Interior and exterior decorating is not only our job, it's also our hobby!

For offices, stores and warehouses –
We take care of the

- **Painting** (in- and outside)
- **Wall covering**
- **Carpeting**
- **Glazing**

BSC

Paintworks

**Bouw Service
Caribbean N.V.**

TELS.: 672042 - 672553 – P.O.B. 3978 – CURAÇAO

from offices in Curaçao, Bonaire, Aruba, St. Maarten, The Hague and Miami handles more bookings than all other travel agents in the Antilles together.

After the second world war the firm started to internationalize. In 1950 Maduro Intermaven in The Hague was established. Two years later an import and export office in Caracas was opened. The company's activities continued to expand, serving clients all over the world. In 1978 a subsidiary was established in Florida, USA, with offices in the harbours of Miami, Everglades and Tampa. The 1982 gross income of the American subsidiary, active in ship's agency work and stevedoring, amounted to US\$ 20.1 million.

Recently an office was opened in New Orleans and Houston, Texas, may be next on the list. Says Mr. Henriquez: the acquisitions in the United States constitute the most important development of our concern during the past five years. Mr. Henriquez, who strikes his visitor as very congenial and gifted with that nowadays rare quality of the true gentleman, really warms up to his story.

"In 1978 we took over the Florida division of La Vino Shipping. Also a very old firm". He delights in adding the detail: "the La Vino's also are originally from Dutch descent. Several generations ago a La Vino represented the Dutch crown in Turkey holding the position of ambassador." Back to the reality of

today, Henriquez explains: "for obvious reasons the growth potential in the Antilles is limited. Therefore we decided to go American". The first five years are marked by success and gradual expansion. The statistics of Maduro's shipping and stevedoring activities in the afore mentioned Florida ports speak their own language (see table 1).

The slight decline in 1982 was due to the overall market situation. But Mr. Henriquez is quite confident that business will improve considerably in the coming two years. He draws AR's attention to the enormous amount of bananas handled by the Florida division. "We invested millions in equipment both in Miami and Tampa. The banana-boxes for example are unloaded by means of a conveyer belt system serving 16 trucks simultaneously! And then you may wonder about the citrus. Yes, those figures concern import! The Florida product does not have much natural colour. Tinting the orange juice with artificial means was outlawed some years ago. The answer was found in importing almost red oranges from Brasil for the purpose of mixing. And listen to this. We handle a lot of grapefruits destined for Japan. These people are very inventive. They designed ships which carry cars from their country to the States and are at the same time fully equipped (cooling etc) to take back grapefruits". Mr. Henriquez is clearly delighted by such

examples of sound entrepreneurship. His own business instinct is well developed. Four years ago, six months before the military takeover in Surinam, Henriquez attended a cocktail party in Paramaribo. Every conversation added a piece to what he conceived as a nasty puzzle. Meeting his company's financial comptroller Henri van der Kwast later that night at the bar of their hotel his mind was made up: let's clear out.

A few days later they had sold the Surinam division to the local staff for the nominal amount of NAf. 1.—. The losses seemed considerable, but half a year later Mr. Henriquez was proved right when sergeant Bouterse took over and set his country on a course toward disaster.

In the Antilles the Maduro group continued to do well. The explanation Mr. Henriquez gives is manifold and contains valuable advice for the present time of crisis. "Our experience has taught us that in the Antilles smaller companies do better than larger ones. One of the reasons why we are no longer interested in being a minority shareholder. Our policy during the past years has been to obtain a majority position or move out. As a result we have a firm grip on management in most of the companies we are involved with." His advice is to keep companies small, manageable and therefore cost-effective. And where possible there should be a diversification of

TABLE 1 Statistics of handling

	1982	1981	1980	1979
Vessels	797	881	764	593
Payable tons (x 000)	652	948	682	794
Containers	39.050	54.360	36.548	18.063
Banana boxes (x 000)	7.658	8.583	5.017	4.308
Citrus (x 000)	275	318	123	
Cars	8.463	44.589	7.966	2.318

TABLE 2 Growth of assets

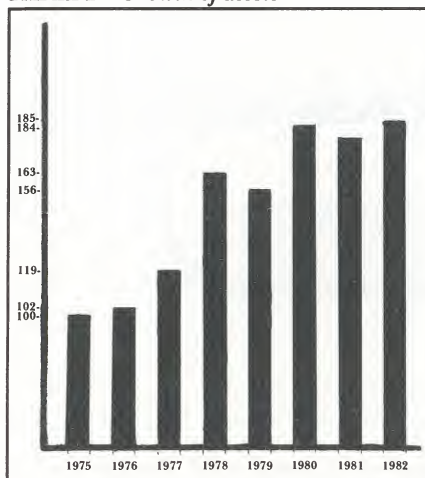
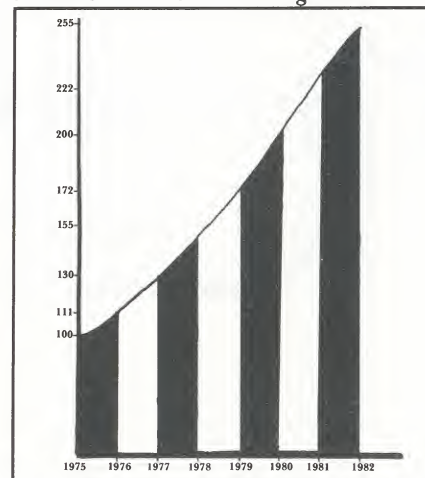


TABLE 3 Turnover travel agencies



activities. This last aspect probably best explains the Maduro-group's present strong position in spite of the economic crisis. Both in the nature of business and geographically they are well spread.

Looking ahead, Oscar Henriquez foresees difficult years for the Antilles. But he comments: "no crisis lasts forever". "I hope we will keep a cool head and not make the customary Caribbean choice of turning to the left when not able to cope." Such a move, he feels, would not do the country any good. He repeats the often heard phrase that the Antilles have no other than human resources. "But", he adds "that implies that we must do everything possible to make sure that our people can perform". An all-out effort should be

undertaken, according to Henriquez, to raise the level of education and vocational training both in the schools and companies themselves. "Really capable secretaries and bookkeepers are still very hard to find", he adds. "Our future lies with the service rendering industries and that presupposes a high level of training and the upgrading of our technical tools — take for example our communication systems".

Oscar Henriquez has no lack of ideas. Even if some difficult years lie ahead, he is convinced that the Antilles can survive. His attitude reflects the almost 150 year old approach of S.E.L. Maduro & Sons to business: always on the look-out for new opportunities. ■



Oscar S. Henriquez (56) isn't quite sure what he should call himself. Born on Saba from Dutch-Antillean parents, reared in Aruba and Curaçao, a civil servant for 25 years on Aruba and for the last 7 years managing-director of Maduro Holdings in Curaçao he most certainly qualifies for 'Antillean'. He started off his career as clerk in the Finance Department on Aruba. Seven years later he had reached the top of the same department. In 1951 he entered politics, co-founding the PPA-party of Aruba. In 1955 he was elected a member of the Island Council. That same year Henriquez was appointed Commissioner of Finance, Economic Development, Public Health and Public Utilities, a position he was to hold for 8 successive years, after which he became Minister of Finance and Economic Development in the national cabinet. In 1962 he was appointed Governor of Aruba.

In 1972 Mr. Henriquez retired from government service and entered private enterprise. In 1973 he became managing-director of S.E.L. Maduro & Sons (Aruba) Inc. and was appointed to his present position three years later.

Mr. Henriquez is married to Vera Croes (Aruba). Mr. and Mrs. Henriquez have three daughters who received their college education in the USA.

Highlights from his career:

- As commissioner he was particularly involved with the development of tourism on the island of Aruba and the realization of several projects, f.e. the new water- and power-plant, an island-wide distribution system, a new airport terminal with extended runway for modern aircraft, a new hospital and the extension and improvement of the harbour-facilities.
- As managing-director of N.V. Aruven he was responsible for the planning, financing and management-contracts of the Aruba Caribbean Hotel, the Aruba Sheraton Hotel and the Americana Hotel.
- As a member of a N.A.-delegation he participated in the negotiations which resulted in the admittance as an associate-member of the Netherlands Antilles by the European Economic Community.
- As Minister of Finance he headed a N.A.-delegation, which negotiated with the Treasury Department of the U.S. Government and succeeded in an arrangement which permits bona-fide off-shore companies in the N.A. to invest in the U.S. and benefit from the existing Tax Treaty. □

DOES A CAREFREE LIVING
"SECOND OR PERMANENT"
IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA
APPEAL TO YOU?

CARESTO can inform you about all
the possibilities in our Dutch Antilles.



CARESTO

N.V. REAL ESTATE AND DEVELOPMENT
ARARATWEG 48 CURACAO TEL.: 614744 - 614751

Realtors - Project Development and
Coordination - Taxation and Survey

Democracy

Still a long way to go

by Wim Luiten



Mr. W. Luiten, who has contributed to the law section of *Antillen Review* from the magazine's early days on, is due to leave the Antilles soon. AR wishes to express its appreciation for the sharing of his insights with its readers.

Featuring in public discussions in Antillean society during the past two months was the theme of democracy. A much publicized series of TV-programmes was devoted to the subject, in which supporters and opponents of our democratic model debated each other's point of view (see Press). The events in Aruba during the week before the April elections also caused many newspapers to wonder if and to what degree democracy is presently being endangered.

And last but not least in his farewell address to the STATEN (parliament) the Governor, Mr. B. Leito, held a long discourse on the dangers – from without but principally from within – threatening our democracy.

Autocratic history

It should first of all be observed that democracy is not to be equated with adhering to specific political rules, derived from the Western European parliamentary system. Democracy is above all the attitude of a nation; the conscious will to form a community based on freedom and equality, in which not power, but solidarity and freedom dictate the terms of living together.

Such an attitude is always preceded by a long process of maturing. In this respect history has not been too favourable to the Antilles. Barely over one hundred years ago a large part of our population was the private property of another segment thereof. The most arbitrary form of human relations – slavery – has dominated our history. When slavery was abolished in 1863, that arbitrary structure was maintained. Small elites continued to wield power, both in an economic and political sense. Political franchise was not granted the colony, although this was already a universal right in the Netherlands, so that by far the greater part of the population had no say whatsoever in matters of government. Not until 1936 a limited suffrage – and then only for men – was introduced. At a very late date in history indeed, 1948 (!), general suffrage was at last granted. It was not until that moment that the pro-

cess of real democratization could begin. But, it should be realized, what took elsewhere ages to develop cannot be expected to mature in a mere thirty years. Consequently our democracy cannot be much more than a thin and very vulnerable veneer.

Repressive policy

Secondly it should be observed that Dutch policy with regard to the Antilles both in the past and present constitutes a major cause of problems in this respect.

It might have been expected that the Dutch would have done everything possible to promote the establishment of a sound democratic system in order to lay the foundation for independence according to international law. Unfortunately they achieved the opposite. In the past Holland gave its support to the white protestant elite ignoring the wish of the other groups for more participation and in doing so laid the basis for an arbitrary community.

In modern times it seems as if Holland is bent on compensating its moral guilt by going to the other extreme. The islands must become independent as quickly as possible. Aruba's striving for a separate status within the Kingdom has been used as a lever to saddle that island with untimely independence. Moreover an effort is being made to draw the other islands into this process. Holland has already announced its intention to put pressure on the other five islands for this purpose. Apparently the question whether the populations of these islands do so desire is of no concern to the Dutch.

As a result a normal healthy development is inhibited. Things have already gone so far that in Curaçao a discussion on independence has become taboo. That which should grow and blossom from within a people is thus repressed by Holland's actions.

In Aruba tension has increased visibly, with the result that a development in a democratic direction is imperilled. Dutch policy, of a repressive nature in the past, does not seem to have changed

in modern times.

Alternative?

Thirdly it may be stated that it would be better for the future of the islands if the resolutions of the RTC were completely deleted. Those resolutions were drawn up and agreed to under compulsion by means of manipulation and blackmail.

The accepted concept of voluntary co-operation among the islands does not stand a chance, as it is not backed up by any real desire to co-operate by the respective parties. The enforced Aruban independence will lead to conflicts, the prelude of which is already visible and which will no doubt lead to Aruba's ruin. The pressure Holland is expected to bring to bear on Curaçao is certain to generate an anti-democratic reaction.

A *conditio sine qua non* for independence is that there exists a sufficient degree of democracy. Independence can therefore only be attained by democratic procedure! Consequently Holland will have to allow the islands all the time needed to work out their mutual relationship for the future and to decide on a date for independence.

If Holland feels the ties of the Statuut as too oppressive to wait any longer, ways must be found to loosen those bonds e.g. military action in the event of internal problems.

The way things are now, the greatest threat to our democracy does not come from within, nor from countries in the region, but from across the ocean.

It is better to turn halfway than to get lost altogether! ■

*Spending your vacation in the Netherlands
Antilles this year? Visit*



CURAÇAO CORAL CLIFF RESORT/BEACH CLUB

CORAL CLIFF RESORT & BEACH CLUB was recently reopened under new ownership. All 25 rooms with ocean view, kitchenette, airconditioning (and screens). Cliffside bar and dining terrace overlooking the Caribbean and its fabulous sunsets. Sunbathe, swim, snorkle, scuba, sail and boardsail on our private, 600 foot long beach. Also night and day tennis, volleyball and ping pong. Shower and toilet facilities on the beach. Free, bus transportation to town and back.



Coral Cliff Resort & Beach Club

Santa Marta Bay, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
Tel. 641610/641820 - Telex: 3434 Aguil N.A.
Cable: CORCLIF

— ennia caribe nv verzekeringen

**In these times of recession insurance is very important,
and even more important is the ability to assess the
exact type of insurance needed and how to avoid risks
as an individual or as a group.**

For extensive coverage of damages caused by:

- FIRE and OTHER NATURAL RISKS
- ACCIDENTS, and
- ILLNESS

— ennia caribe nv verzekeringen

Aruba : Nassastraat 85, Postbox 382, Telephone: 22200
Bonaire : Breedestraat w/n, Telephone: 8546
Curaçao : J.B. Gorsiraweg 6, Postbox 581, Telephone: 612844
St. Maarten : Emmaplein 1, Postbox 394, Telephone: 3334

Discussing Democracy

The timing could hardly have been better. The elections only a few weeks away, concern about the alleged infiltration of anti-democratic forces into political cadres, education and trade-unions was becoming increasingly vocal. Recent reports from the international scene, moreover, showed that democracy is fighting an uphill battle against the powers of non-freedom (see insert). Thus a series of locally produced TV panel discussions on the theme of democracy, broadcasted during March and April, could not possibly fail to attract a large audience. It didn't!

Reactions afterwards, however, were of a mixed nature. The initiative to launch such a series – the very first ever on Curaçao's TV network – was generally praised.

Applauded too was Mrs. Bernadette Heiligers-Halabi, producer and presentator of the programmes, for her impressive command of the subject. A far less favourable judgement was passed on a num-

ber of her guests, who obviously had not taken the trouble to prepare themselves properly and as a result provided marxist-oriented panel members with wide openings for presenting the viewer with theories bearing no relation to the subject. After the second show many feared that the series intended to undergrid the democratic process might in the end prove to be counterproductive. The fact that they did not must be largely ascribed to the much better quality of in particular the third programme and the declining interest of the public as the series developed.

The need for a profound public discussion of the theme had been felt by many for some time and was indeed confirmed by the interest the series at least initially invoked.

Quite a few of the generation trained during the late sixties and early seventies at Dutch institutes of higher education had returned to the Antilles as strong believers in

marxism if not marxism-leninism. Their views, though often decried in the right-leaning press as dangerous and subversive, were never seriously challenged. Attaining leading positions in education, the



Let down by participants

civil service, trade-unions and political bodies their impact on the shaping of society increased steadily. ■

Of all of the under-developed world it is in the America's that democratic traditions are most firmly grounded.

This conclusion, insufficiently appreciated in the free West, can be drawn from a recently conducted survey by the New York based Freedom House, a private organization dedicated to the strengthening of democratic institutions in the free world.

The findings show that 43.6% of the earth's populations are presently living under decidedly non-free conditions. If the 918.8 million people who are enjoying the rights and freedoms of democracy only to a very small extent are added, the percentage will rise to a staggering 63.6!

The core of the democratic world as reflected in the Freedom House survey consists of the traditional democracies. These include all of Western Europe, North America and Australia-New Zealand. Recently, Greece, Cyprus (Greek), Spain and Portugal have been added to this bloc. Turkey is in the process of returning to it.

In Africa there are few democratic societies to be found. Nigeria, the largest black state on the continent, however, is now a functioning democracy.

In Asia, India and Japan are powerful models of democracy, joined by Sri Lanka and near-democracies such as Thailand and Malaysia.

The south Pacific counts many small democracies, beginning

with Papua New Guinea.

Mauritius in the Indian Ocean should also be mentioned.

Reviewing the America's a fairly favourable picture presents itself. Most countries in the Caribbean are democratic. Beyond this area, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru are free countries, recently joined by Honduras and Bolivia.

The largest countries of the America's, Brasil and Mexico are to be labelled near-democracies. In many of these states, however, the system is not firmly rooted and reversals can be expected. But it should be recognized that the hemisphere has never been freer than it is at present.

The Freedom House report does express serious concern about the slow but steady increase in the number of communist or Soviet controlled states. It is pointed out that there exists no record of any communist nation becoming non-communist or of communist regimes granting their peoples significant political and civil liberties.

On the contrary, the communist world continues to expand its repressive system in all parts of the world. Afghanistan has been added to the Soviet empire. The new communist states in Indochina and Africa (Angola and Mozambique are definitely in the Soviet camp, Ethiopia and several others are closely aligned) and Cuba, Grenada and proto-communist Nicaragua are all telling examples.

A campaign for democracy, Freedom House asserts, must therefore be undertaken to stop this growth before it envelops other states as Surinam, Guyana, Guatemala, Haiti or Iran. ■

ily during the past few years.

Secondly it was becoming obvious to many that in spite of the Antilles' reputation of being a stable democratic society, the parliamentary system was not functioning well at all. The very fact that more than 30% of Curaçao's electorate did not take the trouble to cast their votes at the last elections, is a telling sign. The love of freedom of by far the majority of the Antillean people has somehow not been given a chance to translate itself into responsible political involvement.

Thus Bernadette Halabi's effort to draw 16 well known personalities into a discussion on the merits and failures of the democratic system in general and in the Antilles in particular must be rated as a timely and most welcome contribution to the development of the Antillean society.

As the series went on, however,

Bernadette's own disappointment with her undertaking began to show clearly. Using the format of one expert and three panellists per programme she had great difficulty in keeping the discussion on track because of insufficient knowledge of the subject on the part of most participants. As a result they wandered through a tremendous amount of definitions, statements and observations without thoroughly touching upon the subject they had been asked to deal with.

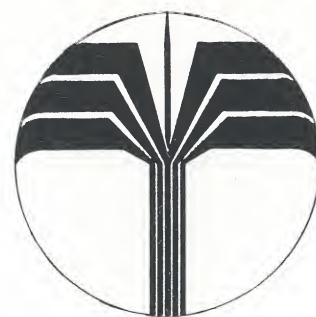
A definite low was reached when one of the panellists named Cuba as an outstanding example of the democratic system because of the high percentage of people who cast their ballot in recent elections in that country!

On the other hand the four programmes aired by Telecuraçao at weekly intervals were also lacking

in basic TV technics. No visual aids for example were used and the camera focused almost exclusively on faces. This disregard for the medium itself – people were in fact watching a radio talk show – did little to ensure the intended instructive character of the showings. One of the more valid points stressed in every one of the four programmes viz., that the poor and underprivileged are not experiencing the blessings of democracy to their full extent, was thus demonstrated by the series itself. Exactly these people were forgotten when the cameras started rolling. For it is doubtful that the high level intellectuality of the programmes aroused any interest amongst these groups.

What the programme did prove beyond any doubt is that the reason why it was created is indeed a most valid one in Antillean society. ■

Think of spending your holidays this year in Curaçao?



LAS PALMAS

HOTEL AND VACATION VILLAGE

- tropical surroundings
- cozy bars

- relaxed atmosphere
- fine accommodations

EXCLUSIVE BUNGALOWS

LAS PALMAS – CURAÇAO - TEL: 25200

US Airline Deregulation

Ruinous for Caribbean

Only yesterday airline management all over the world considered the Civil Aeronautics Board of the USA the toughest of all government institutions they had to deal with. Rights to fly to and from US destinations were hard to obtain. Fare levels were subjected to close examination and when implemented heavily controlled. Charter companies in particular had to adhere to stringent rules and regulations.

All of this changed overnight when the US government decided on a policy of deregulation. It apparently no longer cared about the economic viability of carriers, the need to secure good load factors, the protection of the consumer etc. Free enterprise began dictating the terms. The price war was on. Many of the younger small-scale airlines had to stop operating. Even big names like National Airlines and Braniff disappeared from the scene.

Price/route competition developed on a scale hitherto unseen. The profitability of each and every route segment had to be watched with great care. As a result no major commitments were made anymore to secure routes considered vital for future growth, prestige or convenience. The only issue really at stake now was: how to survive?

It is a well-known fact that long-haul operations render the highest profits.

Consequently the traffic to more distant tourist destinations increased at the expense of the shorthaul operations such as between the USA and the Caribbean.

The latest reports show substantial traffic gains on the routes between the USA and Asia/Australia, South America and Europe.

Deregulation also meant that the policy of fixed percentages for

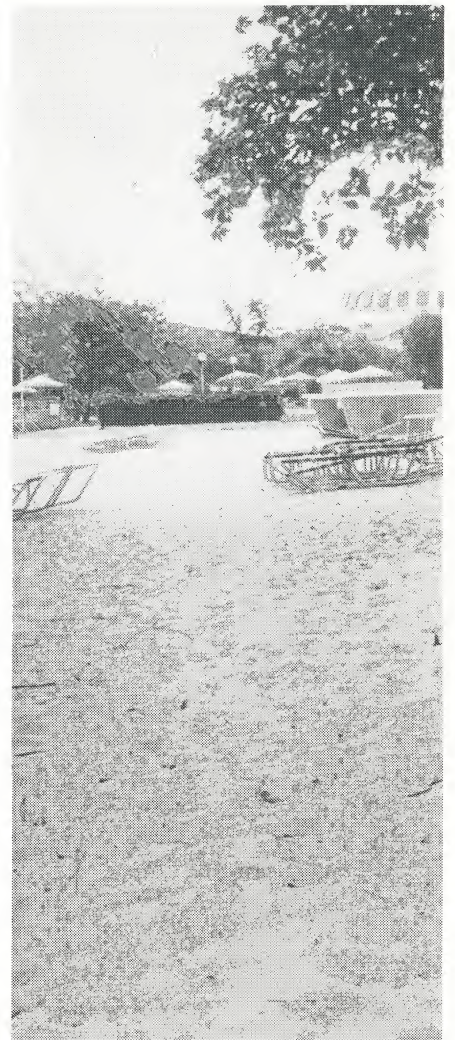
tour operators was replaced by the concept of "open commission". Again, as the highest commissions could be obtained on the longer routes, tour operators and the US retail travel market began to promote far-off destinations. A development not exactly favourable to the Caribbean, which depends for a large extent on US tourism for survival. But after all, business is business.

At the same time the Caribbean islands are confronted with heavy operational losses of their own national airlines. They are, moreover, faced by the warning of US airlines to terminate their regular line-flights, if too many charter companies are allowed to drain the passenger potential; the charter companies are looking for more profitable destinations and show interest in the Caribbean on conditions of no use to the islands.

Not one of the islands, not even the bigger ones like Puerto Rico and Jamaica or those with a well-organized tourist industry, was prepared to cope with these sudden changes. None of them was able to adapt to the new patterns in marketing as quickly as needed.

Several large hotels in Puerto Rico closed down and there are rumors of more to follow. A development seen all over the Caribbean.

Deregulation, it should be observed, was followed by two developments which did little to alleviate the situation for the Caribbean. On the contrary. The continuing recession in Europe caused a stagnation in the badly needed growth of tourist traffic from the old world to the sunny islands. The latest blow was delivered by Venezuela devaluing its bolivar to such an extent that tourism from that country dis-



Empty beaches: a common sight

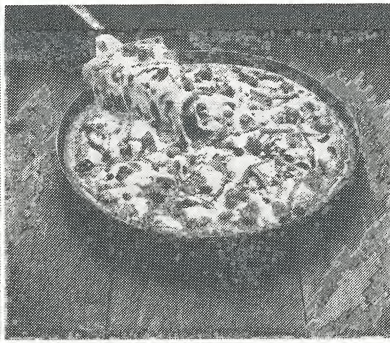
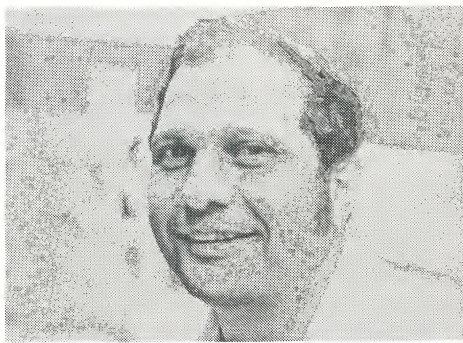
appeared almost entirely.

This fast succession of negative developments caught the tourist-boards on all the Caribbean islands unaware, which leads to the conclusion that not only outside forces are to blame.

Very few of them took the trouble to study possible changes in marketing-mix or took the initiative to adapt their products in time so as to lure a different type of tourist. Many of them are now looking to the Caribbean Tourist Association to provide solutions for the crisis they are in, but this organization can hardly be expected to have ready made answers for all the problems the different islands are confronted with.

Dependency on foreign developments and a chronic lack of innovative thinking at home are once more jeopardizing the future of the Caribbean. ■

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



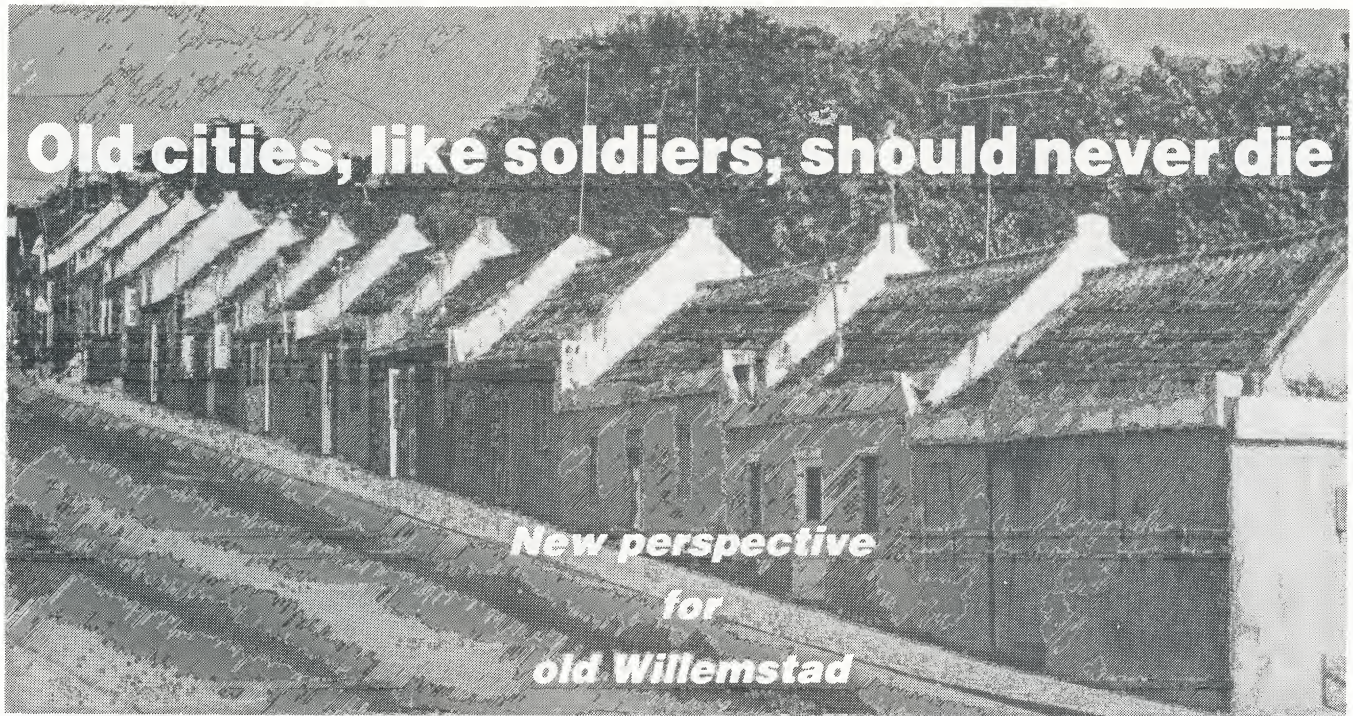
If it takes nerve to start a new business in recession times while others are closing down **Johnny Alvarez-Correa** (40) and **Marshal Godschalk** (26) certainly have plenty of it. In particular as they had no indication whether their product would please the Curaçao palate. Hours before opening the doors of their *Pizza Hut* they sat in their still empty restaurant wondering what they would do if pizza was not to their countrymen's liking. No fear. Curaçaoles love it. But nerve it took and NAf. 1.2 million! Very much in line with the Pizza Hut story, which started back in 1958, when Frank and Dan Carney, inspired by an article in the *Saturday Evening Post*, borrowed \$ 600 from their mother and opened up in a small tavern next to the family's grocery. Today their organization, a subsidiary of PepsiCo, Inc., counts more than 4600 huts scattered all over the globe. A first class recipe, standardized operations, strict quality control and a relaxed restaurant design explain the success story. Says Johnny Correa: "we chose from a combination of several Pizza Hut designs and added some of our own ideas. Most of the ingredients we use are locally produced and approved by Pizza Hut International". Adds Marshal Godschalk: "the Pizza Hut designed oven is a great asset. Baking takes only 8 minutes. And by the way, we are not a fast-food restaurant. Everything we serve is prepared while the client waits".

Correa, who holds a masters in marketing, is very happy about the performance of their 38 employees. None of them had any previous restaurant experience. Comments Godschalk "that was done on purpose. We rather wanted to train our people our own way". He calls the often heard theory that Curaçao people are not really service-minded utter nonsense. "All it takes," he says, "is proper training and guidance". Their most popular pizza? The Antillean Pan Pizza prepared with lots of Dutch Gouda cheese. Pizza Hut has truly gone Antillean. ■



"Curaçao could certainly be a prosperous tourist resort. But a lot has to be done before that can be realized. Instead of looking for clients your people should go to other places and see for themselves what a good product looks like. Maybe they ought to visit Spain and see what has been developed on some of the smaller islands, which have far less to offer than Curaçao. The impossible was made possible there because people decided that was the way things were going to be". **Hans Junge** (42), speaking with a charming Danish accent, knows his business. Manager of Tjaereborg Int. Holding's Hotel Division he is responsible for 2400 hotel beds, mainly in Spain. He's fully booked till the end of September 1984! The success of his company, one of the largest

tour-operators in Europe operating in 5 different countries, with its own fleet of 12 large passenger planes, Junge ascribes to the quality of their product, good service and moderate prices. Engaged to a lovely lady of Curaçao, who is presently completing her medical training at the St. Elisabeth Hospital, Junge has visited the island several times. He has no doubts about what should be done. "First of all, all hotel management should be entrusted to private enterprise. Running a hotel is a business matter. All government meddling should be avoided. Then go and see what your product should look like. Next concentrate on your natural markets, which lie primarily in the USA". Junge does not believe Europe will ever be a market for an island like Curaçao. "Europeans travelling to this part of the world come on an individual basis and expect much more than Curaçao can ever hope to offer. And make sure to create attractive facilities with much local colour". Again Junge stresses the importance of allowing free enterprise to do the job: "hotels must be profitable. Its the only basis for a sound tourism industry". Regarding the state Curaçao's tourism is in, he may very well be right! ■



Old cities, like soldiers, should never die

*New perspective
for
old Willemstad*

The city, half imagined (yet wholly real), begins and ends in us, roots lodged in our memory – Lawrence Durrell wrote about Alexandria. Had it been Willemstad he might have added the frightening, or should it be challenging thought that a time comes when man is called upon to decide whether his city is to live or die.

Wandering about in the streets and alleys of ages-old Willemstad, awed by its unique beauty and appalled by the measure of decay, it is evident that the hour of decision has struck. Leafing through a study undertaken on behalf of the Foundation for the Preservation of Monuments, it is also evident that Curaçao's old city may yet have a chance to survive. In the full sense of that last word! For unlike many other old cities in the Caribbean region the old part of the town still bustles with life, has its own distinct social fabric and functions indeed as the centre of the island's activities. Large scale restoration in this case will yield more than a worthwhile museum of architecture. Much more! It will rejuvenate the heart of Curaçao's society and create exciting new possibilities for housing, tourism, commerce and last but not least employment.

Whether these perspectives will indeed materialize, however, is not a matter the afore-mentioned foundation can decide on its own, but is something that demands the

involvement of government, private enterprise and the public at large.

Appreciation of the rich architectural heritage the island possesses has until recently been limited to a handful of individuals. This in spite of the fact that as early as 1913 an effort was made – on request of the island's governor – to make an inventory of all buildings worth preserving. No means being available to even start the process of restoration, the initiative soon faded out.

In 1944 a second start was made. An advisory committee for the tracing and preserving of monuments of historical and/or aesthetic value was appointed.

As a result the government acquired a few "landhuizen" (large mansions or country homes of a unique architectural style), which were subsequently resorted. But also this effort did not lead to the creation of a long-term policy. Halfway through the 1950-ies a considerable part of Curaçao's heritage was on the verge of being lost for ever.

Neither the government nor the public in general seemed to care very much. It was then that a group of private citizens established the foundation Monumentenzorg (1954). From the very beginning the foundation's board regarded as its primary task to act as stimulator towards a broad process of restoration. The above mentioned lack of interest on the part of the authorities and population, however, forced it into taking direct action itself. In spite of generous help from the Prince Bernard Foundation in the Netherlands the means at the disposal of Monumentenzorg were extremely modest in comparison to the task before it. Thus for many years it could do little more than buy up individual property most urgently in need of restoration. Once restored the premises were let out in order to generate funds for new projects.

Two of the old forts overlooking Willemstad for example were turned into very attractive restaurants, thus adding to the town's touristic attraction.

In due course the foundation's activities were recognized by the authorities as an important public service. The island government decided to subsidize Monumentenzorg on a yearly basis and the Dutch earmarked Naf. 2.5



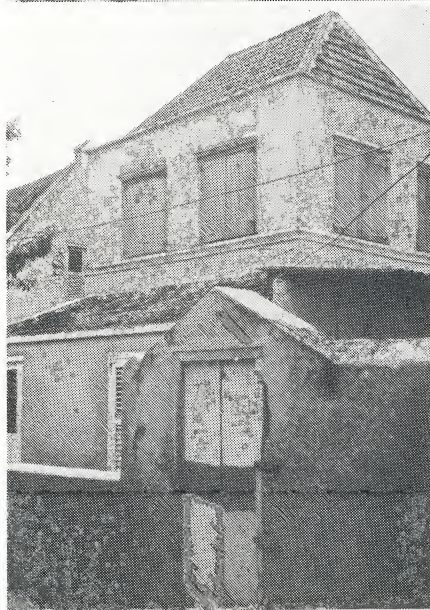
million development aid to be made available over a period of five years. The yearly issuance by Monumentenzorg of a Delft Blue plate portraying a monument also strengthened the foundation's financial position.

By the end of the 1970-ies it became possible to make an important policy move. Attention could now be given not only to individual objects but also to complexes of buildings.

The acquisition by Monumentenzorg in 1979 of a whole row of rather picturesque small houses on "Berg Altena" marks the beginning of the new approach to save if possible also the historical setting rather than just a few individual buildings.



In 1980 the foundation's board decides on formulating a policy with regard to conserving whole areas of historical value i.c. the old city on both sides of the Anna Bay. Sede-Antiyas, an Antillean development agency, has been found willing to supply the funds for drawing up a comprehensive study dealing with all the aspects from policy matters to practical implication.

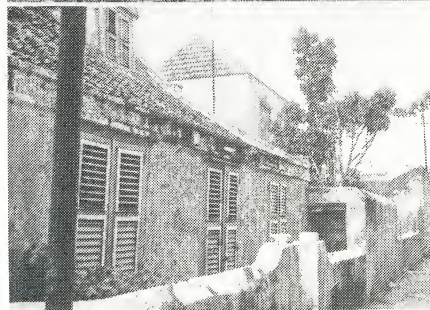


Early 1982, PLAN 'D2, the operational institute of fundashon desaroyo planea, is entrusted with this task. Last May the extensive report was completed.

Monumentenzorg now faces the task of concientizing the authorities, private enterprise and the public at large in order to save one of the most beautiful historic townships of the Caribbean.

What first of all should be made clear to all parties is that restoring the old city or at least the most valuable parts of it, is not for the purpose of satisfying the cultural appetite of a happy few, but that it is a matter of great economic and social importance to the community.

In order to boost the sagging tourism industry the island is in dire need of developing unique attractions. The sea and the sun are always there, but the man-made treasure handed down



through the ages, the city with its labyrinth of alleys and cool shady courtyards, Dutch inspired gables and romantic ambience, a veritable pearl – much abused word in the Caribbean – is exactly such an asset in the fiercely competitive market of the region. In particular as Curaçao is aiming at becoming a base-port for cruise-tourism by improving its facilities as a turnaround terminal.

Cruise tourists staying on the island for only a few hours are less interested in the beaches than in strolling through a 17th century city offering a choice of restaurants, terraces, cafés, shops, gold and silver smith shops, etc. But also the stay-over tourism will greatly profit from a greater diversity of attractions.

Also the implications for the construction industry should be taken into account. With the ongoing recession this will mean keeping the 90% of the working population employed in this sector at work.

Moreover, once the restoration is completed, the need for continued maintenance will follow. It seems superfluous to observe that the unemployment situation on the island cries out for such an opportunity.

An interesting angle of the project is that it will considerably alleviate the island's housing problem at a much lower cost than would be the case, if quarters at the outskirts of the town are built.

In the latter instance one should not only take into account the costs of building, but also the extra expense of preparing the site for construction and providing the necessary infrastructure both with regard to utilities and the social function like schools, shopping centres etc.

Moreover sites for public building are becoming scarce on the island.

Saving and restoring the residential function of the city will certainly serve the needs of the older inhabitants, who often have deep emotional ties to the area as well as young couples, who do not need larger houses and will appreciate being closer to their

places of work.

It might also to a large extent solve the government's own housing problem.

Many of the bigger mansions, as has been proven already, are quite suitable for the needs of government services, which by their very nature should be located in the centre of town.

From a social development point of view it is of the greatest importance to stop the decay and restore the different functions of the city. The process of depopulation is always followed by a wave of ground speculation. Those who buy up the properties are usually not interested in the buildings, historic or not, but only in the value of the ground itself.

Dilapidation continues, inviting the seamy side of society to move in. An increase in criminality and prostitution is a logical result, which in turn speeds up the process of depopulation. In the end the city becomes uninhabitable and the old ruins will in due time be replaced by modern office buildings.

Closely linked with the above is the so-called cultural aspect. Identity – in the Antilles rather identities – is derived from the cultural past. It has much to do with recognition.

In the literature of past generations and the tales of history man recognizes the forces and values which gave birth to his own time. Monuments and old quarters of town speak their own language, but the story they tell is identical. Their high visibility, moreover, gives them a distinct binding force in society.

This point raises an interesting question. Why is it that so much time and energy is presently devoted to collect all kinds of objects which have a historical meaning while the monumental architecture of the past is left to decay? One is tempted to speak of outrageous neglect.

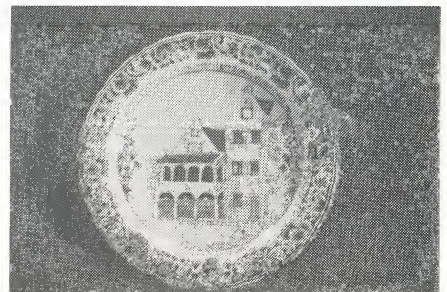
In addition to the challenge of conscientizing the public a load of

technical homework has to be done. Guidelines for identification of what is worth while restoring have to be determined.

The principle of functionality will have to be defined and implemented. To restore a monument is not enough. It must at the same time be given a new function in society.

And last but not least ways for financing such an undertaking must be indicated.

The report deals with all these questions in detail. The overall conclusion is that a foundation like Monumentenzorg can never – should not even attempt – to tackle such a task by itself.



Delf Blue Plate

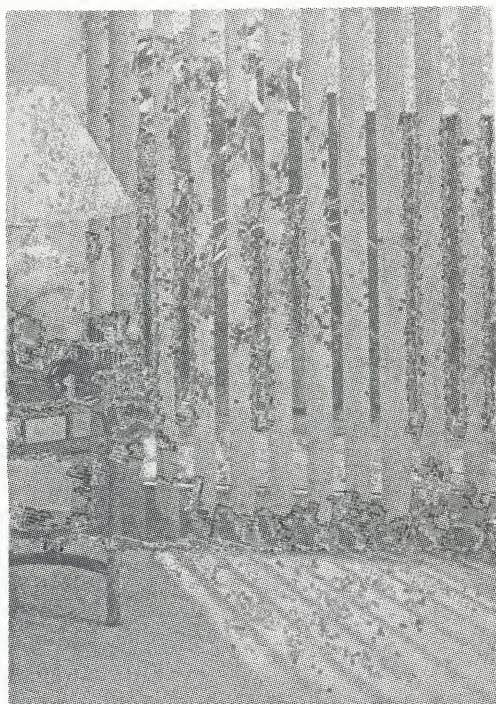
Joined action of the foundation and the concerned government services, some of which have already done a respectable amount of work in this respect (DROV), and the sector of private enterprise is a sine qua non. Such joined action will also spread out the financial burden, an approach which may well make the venture quite possible.

From a policy point of view the question of the financial possibilities may seem of paramount importance. No doubt it is.

But saving the old city is very much a matter of life or death to Curaçao's society and from that perspective it is not a question but a must.

The foundation Monumentenzorg, fighting a lonely battle for almost thirty years, has proven by what it achieved that also in this respect everything is possible for a people that knows what it wants. ■

For a handsome interior in your office or home



we offer a wide selection of

- VERTICAL LOUVERS
- CURTAIN MATERIALS
- LACE
- CARPETS

from Italy, Spain, Israel and the U.S.

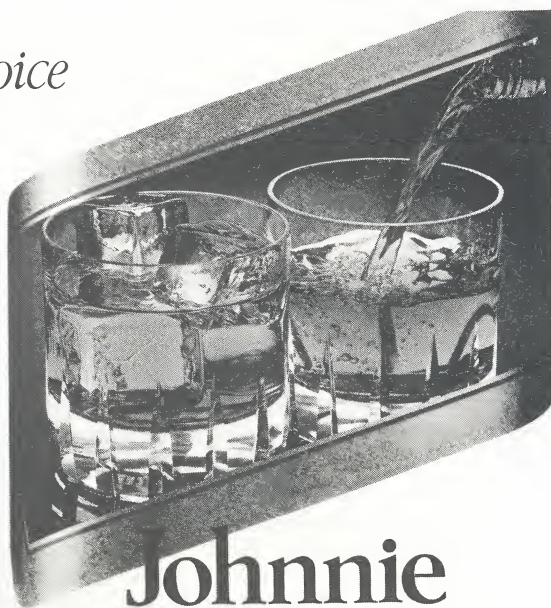
If desired we can make and install them professionally, with all accessories.

ACKERMAN N.V.

HEERENSTRAAT - HANDELSKADE

TEL. 611091 - 611093 - 612905

*The confident choice
since 1820*

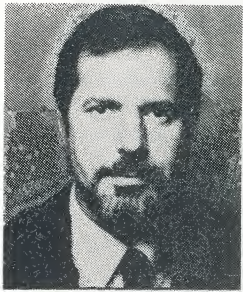


**Johnnie
Walker**
The world's No 1 Scotch whisky



MORRIS E. CURIEL & SONS, INC.

Tel. 614900
CURACAO



A time for straight talk

by Anthony P. Maingot

There is a terrible obfuscation of language in the Caribbean today. Terms don't seem to mean anymore what they once did, people seem always to be cautiously rephrasing or backtracking in private from what they boldly asserted in public. It is a cloudy milieu in which certain words appear to have taken on a certain axiomatic character.

One such word is "revolution" and everything that can be subordinated to it; revolutionary justice, revolutionary democracy, revolutionary contingencies and exigencies. The axiomatic adjective "revolutionary" seems to place whatever verbs and nouns that follow beyond the pale of objective enquiry. The late 1982 events in Suriname described in this issue by Edward Dew are a case in point.

To the Cuban press the "executions" of December 1982 were justified on the grounds of keeping the "revolution" going. Soon Marxist voices throughout the Caribbean were either totally silent on the matter or spoke similarly of a lamentable but necessary revolutionary exigency. Even those who argued with the necessity of the act accept the "revolutionary" nature of the regime. The *Latin American Regional Report-Caribbean* out of London for instance regrets that the massacre had caused a "temporary" vanishing of support for "the revolution." [1/21/83]

The question, of course, is not to challenge the motives, acts, outcomes of the Surinamese rulers but to challenge first the very premise that they lead a revolution and secondly to ask, even if they do, does that put acts such as those of December 1982 in a special category? Have we reverted to a medieval-like age of blind faith or

have we summersaulted into the Orwellian age of group-think? Why this apparent acceptance without scrutiny of such terms as "liberation," "progressivism," and their opposites "dependency," "reactionary"? It is clear that these are more than words, they are at once descriptions and theories about something.

Why is it that the scrupulous enquiries into the claims of dogmatic truth and divine authority with which we approach proselytizing religion seem so absent in our dealings with this new Heavenly City of revolution? Why do we label as imperialist the Spanish missionary who came to preach blind faith in Christ and Mary, but fail to challenge his functional and ideational equivalent in the American Maryknoll or Jesuit who comes to preach blind faith in Christ and Marx?

One looks on in silent horror as the harmless religious and ideological divisions of Europe and the United States play out a deadly game for bodies and minds in the Caribbean. In virtually every town there is the American fundamentalist church packed with souls once the exclusive possession of "the" Church, while not too far away in the city or the hills an equally alien priest condemns this City of Man and redefines the City of God.

Even as truly oppressed peoples in Poland struggle to demystify their school and university curriculums we seem bent on reasserting the veracities of gods that have long since failed. And, as the case of Suriname illustrates, we very often turn to our ex-imperial masters not only for the theories but indeed for the gurus who will light our path to revolution.

What accounts then for this state of affairs? One explanation lies in the recent history of Caribbean nationhood. We came of age after the revolutions of the 18th and 19th Century and after the post World War II Declaration of Universal Human Rights and . . . we believe in them. It could not be otherwise: generalized acquaintance with

slavery — as a system and an idea — has led Caribbean scholars to incorporate a moral dimension into their work as both a condemnation and a reminder that a similar version is still very much alive even today as in, for instance, South Africa.

Given this sincere ethical stance, Caribbean scholars react with indignation at any association, in action or thought, with the right-wing defenders of any form of racism or exploitation. Since this stance is a world of categorical positions allowing no areas of gray, a center position is regarded as little more than appeasement or at best, an immoral concession to evil. And so, the term "Third World" becomes a concept, it describes a group of nations, but also assumes a syndrome of attitudes and orientations.

The problem is that the world of politics and politicians is full of gray areas and it is time that we introduce some healthy doses of skepticism about their words and, even more, their actions.

The recent behavior of Argentine ex-foreign Minister Costa Mendez is further evidence that it is time for some straight talk. Visiting Brasilia days before the Falkland-Malvinas War, he was adamant in rejecting any "Third World" label for his country; ties with South Africa were justified, he said, because both were "Atlantic" countries. Three weeks later he was in Havana, guest of Fidel Castro, calling on his Third World "brothers" to confront the imperialists. Throughout the Caribbean radicals and Marxists repeated without so much as a query the explanation that their support was for the Argentine people, not the military dictatorship. It has become the standard obfuscation. To read Grenada's explanations of their support for the USSR in Afghanistan is to further understand the true essence of double-talk.

In the final analysis, however, Costa Mendez had done little different from what many others in the Caribbean who had become adept at "playing the Cuban Card" have been doing: say one thing in Kingston, say another in Havana and, if necessary, a third in New York.

Perhaps the key lies in Caribbean leaders' understanding of their area's past: those who, even in words, challenged the established order tended not to last long in power, as Cheddi Jagan discovered in Guyana.

To understand the lack of straight

This article first appeared in Caribbean Review. The author, Anthony P. Maingot is professor of sociology of Florida International University in Miami. Mr. Maingot, who is originally from Trinidad, received part of his education in Curaçao.

talk, then, is to say something about the potential perils of straight talk and, Caribbean leaders, like leaders anywhere, understand that survival is the first commandment of politics.

This holds true for Maurice Bishop as well as for Tom Adams. Language and personal diplomacy therefore are inherently part of the Caribbean style and approach because they are central to survival in Caribbean politics.

This explains why a Fidel Castro would personally handle all negotiations surrounding the Mariel boatlift of 1980 even as the United States depended on private citizens — in violation of US law prohibiting citizens from negotiation officially — and on fourth level functionaries. At a time when Cuba was forcing people to take one-way trips out in total violation of their human rights and US sovereignty, the United States refused to talk straight, refused to meet the challenge head on so as not to give the appearance of negotiating. In other words, it continued the stance of the past 22 years which has been nothing short of a mockery of established international relations theory and existing Caribbean diplomatic practise.

It is clear today that Mariel stands as much a testimony to the cold efficiency of totalitarian systems as it does to the futility of US policy towards Cuba. And this United States-Cuba stand-off is a significant factor in the continued lack of ideational candor and behavioral consistency in Caribbean international relations.

It is time to change that and the fundamental first step in that change has to be the opening of talks, the lifting of the bamboo curtain. This means of course taking Cuban sovereignty seriously. It makes no sense for the United States to continually rally against acts which are proper to any sovereign country (such as acquiring new weapons) only because they involve the Soviets, yet stand by helplessly when Cuba commits a veritable Act of War (Mariel) only because this does not involve the Russians or East-West strategic considerations.

In calling for straight talk we understand therefore that respect for sovereignty has as its obverse accountability for sovereign actions.

And, it is precisely — and perhaps only — in this area of accountability that Caribbean scholars can make their

contributions . . . by talking straight. Let us stop calling opportunistic power grabs "revolutions" just because they are sanctioned by Cuba. Arrests in the middle of the night followed by torture and shots to the head are murder not "revolutionary justice" — and broken promises to respect pluralism and elections are indecent deception not "revolutionary contingencies" — in the same way that support of right-wing death squads makes one an accessory before the facts and abandonment of muchtouted plans for assistance is a callous form of deceit.

If this straight talk requires planting oneself with both feet in that much-maligned center, to stand as one of those despised liberals, so be it. But, not even this is necessary.

What is necessary is that academics from center, left or right call things by their name, that we leave the double-talk to politicians and the quasi-sacred frames of reference to the ideological proselytizers both religious and secular. There is no other way to clear the tragically clouded Caribbean air, only the first step in truly addressing our problems. ■

CARRIER

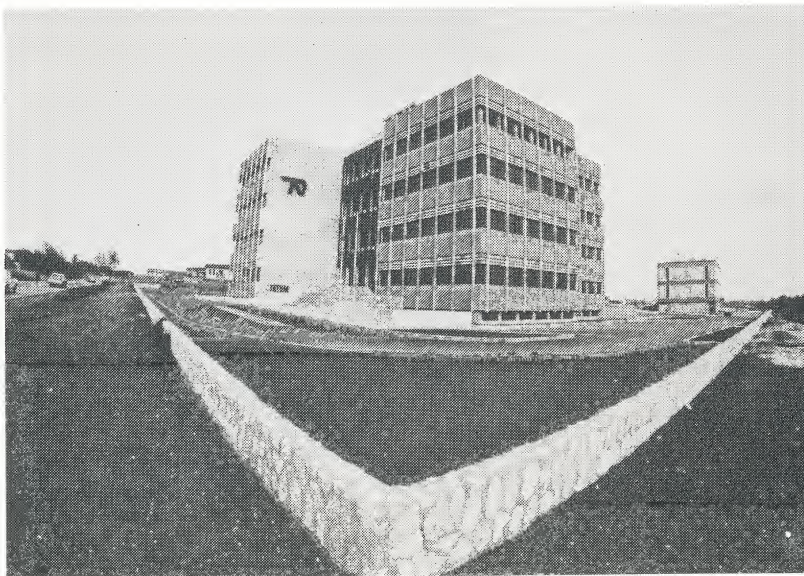
CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING

Your home is ready-made for one of our air conditioning systems.

There's a Carrier central air conditioning system ready right now to cool every room in your house or office. Carrier has developed the most complete line designed for every size and shape of home imaginable.

They not only cool, but also bring you the kind of clean, fresh coolness that makes you the most comfortable. And the condensing unit is outside so you don't hear the system operating.

The **one** way to cool **all** of a home.



As fully trained Carrier specialists, we'll make sure you get just the system to fit your home. Install it properly. And service it expertly.

Call us, and you'll be amazed at how well your house or office was designed for a Carrier central air conditioning system.



TECHNI - CARIBE

Emancipatie Boulevard 38 - Tel. 78984 - 78994

WE ARE SPECIALIZED IN:

- ★ **LADIES- AND CHILDREN CLOTHING**
always the latest fashion
- ★ **MEN'S SPORTSWEAR**
- ★ **ELECTRONIC RADIO & PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT**
- ★ **T.V. AND VIDEO RECORDERS**
and many other items

Our stores in Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten
will be pleased to serve you.

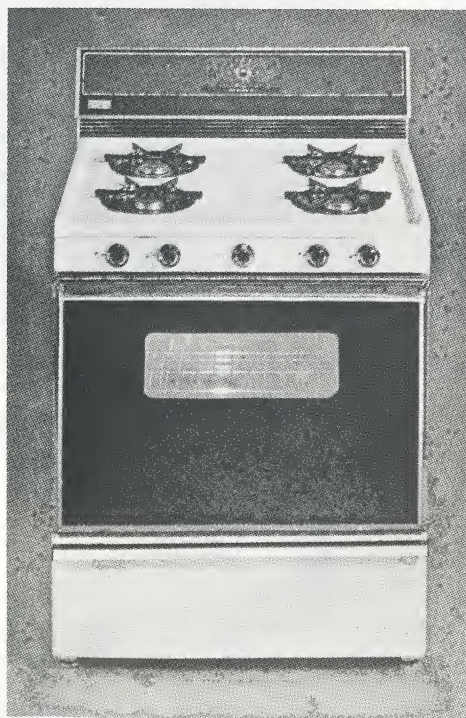
Ask for:



Palais Hindu, N.V.

DEPARTMENT STORES IN ARUBA - CURACAO - ST. MAARTEN

Winkel Brothers N.V.



*the only company that is
completely specialized in*

★ **KITCHEN APPLIANCES** ★

 **Frigidaire**

freezers - refrigerators - watercoolers

 **ROPER**

regular and "built-in" stoves

 **Speed Queen**

full automatic washers - wringer washers

Visit our Showroom at Schottegatweg-West / Kaya Kaiman - Tel. 84896 - Curaçao, N.A.

FINANCE

continued from page 23

cessary to safeguard the continuity and to restore the profitability of the Drydock activities on Curaçao. The company employs about 1200 workers. The tough measures are in accordance with phase one of the report drawn up by Appledore Consultants.

The management also announced that consultation with the Labour union will take place and asked for understanding on the part of the employees to avoid unnecessary damages to the company in view of the difficult circumstances.

The announcements did not come as a surprise. Even the timing i.e. shortly after the elections was as expected. It was not the contents of the measures, but the lack of additional announcements that was conspicuous. Although the government has been negotiating with the two major shareholders to purchase all the shares, no news in this respect was announced.

Curaçao Oil Terminal

The supreme court of Judicature in the Hague pronounced judgment in the case of the island government of Curaçao versus Shell Curaçao and Curaçao Oil Terminal concerning the imposition of taxes on the use of the Bullenbay and the construction of tanks.

The Bullenbay levy on piers and jetties of COT, which amounted to f 1.5 million, has been declared valid only for ships.

The horizon levy on tanks was deemed in conflict with the law. This tax provided an annual income of about f 19 million for the government.

These taxes has been levied incorrectly for several years.

Shell paid an amount of about f 10 million and COT about f 70 million, which should in principle be refunded. However, the government has already spent the money. The government has reached an agreement with both companies that the money and the interest due will not be paid back.

To compensate the Government for the loss of these substantial revenues COT agreed to pay profit tax. The profitability of the oil storage company has decreased during recent years. The company is not operating at full capacity anymore. The profit tax to be paid will probably not exceed the former environment levies. ■

BIBLIOGRAPHY

by Alice van Romondt

Juridica Miscillanea Antiyana.

Collection of essays published by the Societas Juridica, Leiden University, 1982.

Cuentanan de Nanzi.

Doctoral thesis by W. J. H. Baart, 1983.

Available in all bookstores (Naf. 29.90).

De laatste kolonie: de Nederlandse Antillen: afhankelijkheid, belastingprofeit en geheime winsten.

A critical view of the Netherlands Antilles by Rudie Kasie.

Published by Het Wereldvenster, Bussum, 1982.

Het Caraïbisch gebied; een terreinverkenning.

Inaugural address by Prof. dr. R. A. Römer on the occasion of entering upon his professorship (sociology in particular of the Caribbean region) at the University of the Netherlands Antilles, March 1982.

Teleurgestelde verwachtingen.

Observations concerning the method of defining the dividing line between the authority of the national government and the island territories.

Address by W. A. Luiten at the opening of the academic year 1981-1982.

University of the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao, 1981.

Nos ambiente; un enfoque efectivo y exitoso riba e problema di sushi solido na Aruba.

A method of solving environmental pollution problems on Aruba, by G. A. Engelbrecht, Aruba, 1982.

Available in all bookstores.

Rapport van de gemeente commissie toekomst Antillen.

Report of the committee of Seven on the future of the Netherlands Antilles.

Published by the Staatsuitgeverij, The Hague, 1982.

Kosnan de Bida.

A compilation of radioprogrammes on the theme "matters of everyday life" by Juan Virgilio Coco.

Available in all bookstores (Naf. 10).

Ta basta ku violensha kontra muhe.

A selection of articles on violence against women published in Bosero, magazine of the Union di Muhe Antiano, November 1982.

Available in all bookstores

(Naf. 3.50).

Turismo; un industria di hende; un potret di turismo na Korsow.

An impression of the tourism industry in Curaçao by Vincent Pieters and Eric Hees.

Available in all bookstores.

Mentalidad. Un kayente un frieu.

Reflections on the Antillean mentality by Eric la Croes.

Available at: Ruimtevaartlaan 119, 3402 DM IJsselstein. Netherlands (Dfl. 750).

The American Dutch tax series; volume 1.

Survey of all American, Antillean and Dutch legal rulings with regard to offshore companies registered in the Netherlands Antilles, by R. H. D. Debrot.

25 jaar Balletschool "les Sylphides".

Jubilee edition on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the ballet school "les Sylphides" by Diana Lebacs.

Published by Sticusa.

Available in all bookstores. ■



PETCA

ZUIKERTUINTJEWEG

The best equipped shop for your pet

Tel. 76849



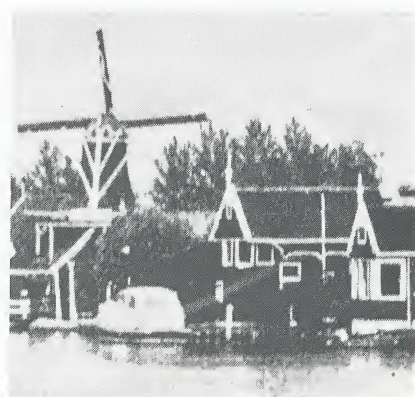
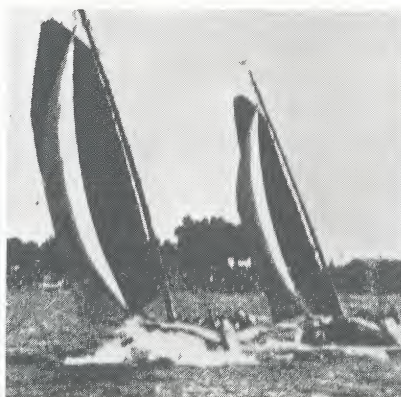
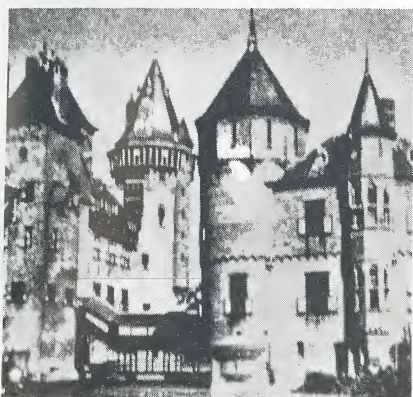
Taste the difference!

AMSTEL

The purest beer in the world
– made from distilled seawater –

*Enjoy the national beer
of the Netherlands Antilles*

Available in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Martin



Tell your friends about the Holland they have missed and about the airline to go there by.



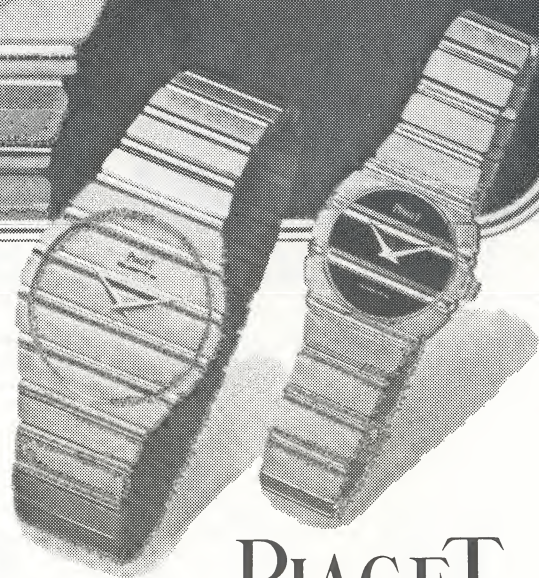
The reliable airline of Holland



Models registered®

The Inimitable is signed ...


SPRITZER+FUHRMANN
YOUR JEWELER IN THE CARIBBEAN
ARUBA · BONAIRE · CURACAO · ST MAARTEN · NEW YORK



PIAGET

At the world's finest jewellers